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**Early History of the
Town of Van Buren,**

Onondaga Co., N. Y.

III

EARLY HISTORY

Of the

Town of Van Buren,

ONONDAGA CO., N. Y.

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A HISTORY

Of the Town of Van Buren, Onondaga County, New York, Prepared
by Louis D. Scisco, and Reprinted from the Series of Articles
Published in the Baldwinsville, N. Y., Gazette.

ITS SCANT SHARE IN THE EARLIEST ONONDAGA HISTORY.

The recent celebration of the centennial year of Onondaga County has brought about a revival of interest in local history that is showing itself in many localities in the county. Little real work on the history of the local development of the county has ever been done, though the history of the Onondaga Nation and of the early French missions has received the special attention of many. Were it not for the works of J. V. H. Clark, published in the forties, little would now be known of the pioneer period of Onondaga. His books, though far from errorless, have preserved from loss many valuable facts. In Clark's history, however, the citizen of the Town of Van Buren finds but a scant two pages devoted to his town. None of the towns of western Onondaga received their share of consideration from him and Van Buren received less than any other town in the county. The county history published by Mason & Co. in 1878 did much better for Van Buren, most of the material being furnished by a citizen of the town, whose knowledge of its past is extensive. In addition to those facts already published, there are many facts of interest which can be gleaned from the records, and it is in the hope that the sum total of its

known history may be increased a little that the following pages have been contributed to the columns of THE GAZETTE.

Some reference to the early events of Onondaga county's general history are a necessary prelude to any sketch of an individual town. Although the town of Van Buren was not closely connected with the early romance of Onondaga, yet its later history can be better understood by a review of these events. The Onondaga country was a part of the great interior wilderness when the first French explorers came into the valley of the St. Lawrence and the colonists soon learned that it was the home and center of the warlike Iroquois League. In 1615 the explorer Champlain marched from the Canadian settlements directly into the heart of the Iroquois territory on a military foray and chose a route that took him across the northeastern part of the present county. This was the first advent of Europeans into the region and its date is a starting point for our county's history. Forty years after Champlain's expedition the county was again visited by white men. The Jesuit mission priests found their way from Canada up the Oswego river and set up their mission stations close by the Indian villages east of Onondaga lake. Here they labored with the

savages in a vain attempt to make them religious and incidentally laid up for themselves lasting fame by the discovery of the Onondaga salt springs. For the next half century after the arrival of the Jesuits the history of Central New York is closely connected with that of Canada. The Governors of the French provinces well knew the value of securing the control of the Iroquois territory, and made every effort to bring the Indians under their rule.

In the early part of the eighteenth century the French found a rival power disputing their frontier. The English colonial authorities at New York sent out their agents and explorers among the Indians and every influence was brought to bear to break down the ascendancy which French governors had worked so long to upbuild. The potent power of English diplomacy, backed up by English gifts and English promises, gradually won Central New York for the English crown, despite the advantage which the French held by their long acquaintance. The building of the British fort at Brewerton in 1759 marked the actual occupation of the Onondaga country by the English colonial authorities and the struggle with France ended in 1762 when a treaty between the two powers gave to Great Britain the territory south of Lake Ontario.

In all this history the town of Van Buren has no share. The central point around which the priest, diplomat and soldier in turn struggled for influence was the Iroquois council-fire at the Indian towns east of Onondaga Lake. No early explorer, so far as we know, traversed the region of the present town. It was a part of the hunting-ground of the Indian tribes, where both Onondagas and Cayugas resorted for the chase. Along the Seneca river and in the valleys of the smaller streams are yet found the traces of their camps. Van Buren lies in the angle between the great primitive

highways of the wilderness. South of the present town lay the old trails which led through the valleys westward from the Onondaga towns to the villages of the western tribes. It was along these trails that the British emissaries of the eighteenth century found their way to the Cayuga and Seneca settlements. East of the present town of Van Buren lay the trails along which was carried on communication between the Onondaga towns and the military posts at Oswego. Lying thus to one side of the great avenues of travel, it was natural that the territory should be passed by until the period of actual settlement, and that it should have no participation in the events of Onondaga's early history.

The powerful Iroquois confederacy, which for nearly a century held the balance of power in the politics of rival colonial extension, was overthrown in the revolutionary period. The confederacy had become a steadfast ally of the British government after the overthrow of French power south of Lake Ontario, and it remained faithful in its friendship when the colonies revolted against the mother country. The Indian war parties fought with axe and scalping-knife along the colonial frontiers and marched under the British command in more than one campaign. Finally a series of military expeditions by the Continental troops reached into the very heart of the Indian country and ended forever the Iroquois power. While Sullivan, in 1779, harried the settlements of the Cayugas and Senecas, other expeditions attacked the Mohawks and Oneidas on the east and a detachment, under command of Colonel Van Schaick, burned the villages of the Onondagas south of Onondaga lake. This was the ending of the Iroquois power. The war of the Revolution which was closed by the treaty of peace in 1783 was followed by a treaty of peace at Fort Schuyler in 1784 between the United Colonies and the Six Nations.

The treaty of 1784 left the Indians still in possession of the territory of Central and Western New York. Two years before the treaty of Fort Schuyler the State of New York had anticipated the logical results of the Iroquois overthrow and had reserved the lands of Central New York for the purpose of carrying out its pledges to its soldiers. Almost at once on the close of the Revolution steps were taken to extinguish the Indian title to these unsettled lands. Treaties were made with the different tribes of the Confederacy for that purpose. The Onondaga chiefs met the state commissioners at Fort Schuyler and after some negotiations concluded a treaty which bears the date of Sept 12, 1788. This treaty contained six distinct provisions as follows: First, for the cession to the state of all the Onondaga lands; second, for the laying out of a reservation to be retained by the Indians; third, for preserving to the Indians the right to hunt freely in any part of the land thus ceded; fourth, for the reservation of the land about Onondaga lake by the state and the Indians as tenants-in-common; fifth, for the payment of certain annuities by the state to the Indians; sixth, for the prevention or expulsion of intruders on Indian lands. This treaty marked the end of Indian ownership. Next came the state survey and allotment in 1790 which completed the conquest by the whites.

The territory of the present town of VanBuren was a portion of the region which passed from the Indians to the state by the treaty of 1788. There was no settlement in the town at this time although pioneers had begun to find their way to other parts of the Onondaga country. Ephraim Webster had been four years trading with the savages at his post on Onondaga creek and Asa Danforth was already settled at Onondaga Valley, but the tide of immigration into the county did not fairly begin until after the treaty of cession was completed.

THE MILITARY TRACT—HOW THE COUNTY OF ONONDAGA WAS LAID OFF TO SOLDIERS.

The military expeditions of 1779 which ended the power of the Indian confederacy could have had but one result and that was the taking of the Indian lands for settlement under state authority. Several years before the treaty of 1788 finally extinguished the Indian title the change had been foreseen by the state administration and plans laid accordingly. New York state, like the other states of the new republic, was often hard pressed for money during the revolutionary struggle. It was necessary to equip troops, pay salaries to state officials and make contributions toward the national funds at a time when the treasury was empty and money scarce. In these times the financial plans of the state government were often based on the supposed value of the state lands. A great number of estates belonging to British sympathizers had been confiscated and to these were soon added portions of the wild lands toward the eastern part of the state.

In 1780 the state found difficulty in paying the troops. The difficulty was partly solved by issuing certificates which were made acceptable in payment for confiscated estates. Next year it became necessary to raise two regiments for war service. Again the matter of payment became a problem. The national congress, several years before this, had provided for a land bounty to the Continental troops, and the state of New York now adopted a similar plan to tide over the emergency. The act of 1781, which provided for the raising of the two new regiments, provided also that they should be granted lands in lieu of pay and fixed a scale of bounties; 500 acres to a private, 1,000 acres to an ensign or surgeon's mate, 1,500 acres to a captain or surgeon and 2,000 acres to a lieutenant-

colonel or major. A year later another act extended the same terms to the recruits enlisted to fill vacancies in the regiments. In 1784 the provisions of the act were further extended in favor of Lamb's artillery regiment.

All this legislation had pledged the state to the granting of lands which were as yet neither state property nor even located. Some definite action had to be taken to remedy that state of affairs. This was accomplished on July 25, 1783, when an act of the legislature defined the limits of the famous Military Tract in Central New York and ordered it reserved for allotment to the soldiers of New York state entitled to bounty lands under acts of congress and legislature. This was the first establishment of the Military Tract, in which was included all the present county of Onondaga and with it the town of Van Buren.

The war of the Revolution ended in 1783 and with the discharge of the soldiers from the disbanded regiments came the necessity for further action toward carrying out the pledges of the state. The national congress had, early in the war, promised to every Continental soldier 100 acres from the public domain at its disposal. Near the close of the war an arrangement was made whereby the state of New York took upon itself the carrying out of this promise so far as it related to the soldiers from this state. It was the intent of the state authorities to increase the state grant of 500 acres to each soldier by the 100 acres promised by congress and lay out in the public land enough 600-acre tracts to cancel the obligations. No steps could be taken toward surveying the land, however, until the Indians yielded title. An act of 1785 begins with the preamble: "Whereas no legal settlement can be made on the lands now claimed by the native Indians until a title from said Indians can be had or obtained" and went on to provide for the proper steps toward securing a relinquishment of title by

the Indians. For several years thereafter all legislation in regard to the Military Tract ceased, while commissioners appointed by the state government conducted negotiations with the different tribes of the Six Nations. Finally the treaty of 1788 ended the Iroquois title to the Onondaga country.

The work of opening up the newly ceded land to settlement came up before the state legislature at its first sitting after the treaty was concluded. On February 28, 1789, an act was passed requiring the land-office commissioners to direct a survey of the Military Tract by the surveyor-general, and the commissioners, at a sitting on April 22nd following, did so direct Simeon Dewitt, the surveyor-general, to survey the Tract. Legislative enactment had given specific directions as to the manner in which the tract was to be laid out. There were to be townships having each exactly 100 lots and each one of these lots was to contain 600 acres of land as nearly as the amount could be determined. Each township was to bear a name and a number and the lots of each township were also to be numbered. One of the provisions that was made in every act for surveying public lands at this time was adopted for the Military Tract survey. That one was for the reserve of various lots from the sale of which in after years could be realized funds to support churches and public schools. Other provisions of this act defined the method by which the lands should be assigned to the war veterans and ordered that lots granted should revert to the state unless settled upon within seven years.

Surveyor-General Dewitt probably began his work very soon after being given his instructions. The exact details of the survey work are uncertain and the field-books now preserved at Albany give little information on the point. There seems reason to think that during 1789 and early in 1790 the work was limited to running outlines of the townships and that the survey

of the lot lines in each township took place later, in 1790 and 1791. Neither map nor field-book shows when the work in the township of Camillus was done. On July 3, 1790, at a meeting of the land-office commissioners, a report from the surveyor-general was presented showing that twenty-five townships had been laid out according to the laws directing the survey and were properly numbered and named. Township No. 5 in the list was named Camillus. It included the whole of the present town of Van Buren and of the present town of Elbridge, with about three-quarters of the present town of Camillus. Of the hundred lots which made up the township, thirty-six are now included in Van Buren. These lots were of varying area although in a general average they over-ran but little the statutory 600-acre area which was supposed to be common to them all. Where the surveyors were able to lay out the lots with straight lines as boundaries they were reasonably sure of the acreage.

In Van Buren the rectangular lots average about 620 acres each. Where the surveyors found it necessary to adapt their lots to the windings of a river they departed more widely from their 600-acre standard, and in Van Buren the extremes of size are found in these river lots. The largest lots in the town are probably Lots 17 and 9 in the western part of the town. By the surveyor-general's figures the former lot holds about 706 acres, while the latter figures about 663 acres. Passing to the other extreme, it is found that by the old survey the smallest lots are Lots 43 and 7 in the eastern and northern parts of the town. Lot 43 has about 534 acres, while Lot 7, smaller yet, has less than 500 in its total.

Two phrases commonly used throughout Onondaga county for certain tracts of land took their origin from the old Dewitt survey. By these are meant the terms "States hundred" and "Survey-fifty." They are applied to certain tracts of fifty or one hundred acres

each, which are scattered all through the county and which, though included within the bounds of the old military lots, have always held an individuality of their own on account of being set aside and reserved by the state at the time when the great portion of the Military Tract was granted to private owners. The Revolutionary soldier, as has been said, was entitled to 500 acres from his state and 100 acres more from congress. The state undertook the delivery of the whole 600 acres but made such grant only when the soldier gave in return an assignment of his congressional grant. In many cases such assignment was not made and the state, in consequence, reserved 100 acres from the lot which was granted to that particular veteran. These hundred-acre tracts were ordered to be laid out in square form in one corner of the lot. They were finally sold about 1795 by the state and were bought in by land speculators. They were described as the "state's hundred acres" or "states hundred" and in most cases still keep that designation. There are seven of these tracts in the town of Van Buren.

The "Survey-fifty" tracts are much more common than are the states-hundreds. At the time that the townships of the Military Tract were surveyed into lots it was not the policy of the state to bear all the expenses of that work. A statute of 1790 provided that a fee of 48 shillings over and above all other fees should be assessed on each lot which had been surveyed in order to pay the expense of the survey. In case this assessment should not be paid within two years the surveyor-general was instructed to reserve and sell at auction a fifty acre tract in one corner of the lot which should be laid out in square form. So few of the patentees of the military lots paid this extra assessment that the county is today dotted with these fifty acre squares, which, like the states hundreds, in many cases yet retain their special name. Fifteen of these tracts are lo-

cated in the town of Van Buren. The sale of the lots by the state took place in July, 1790, and they went into the hands of the speculators.

GRANTEES AND SPECULATORS—THE MEN
WHO OWNED THE EARLY PAT-
ENTS OF VAN BUREN.

The allotment of the Military Tract to the ex-soldiers of the war followed close upon the completion of the survey. The same law of 1789 which prescribed the conditions of the survey also directed the manner in which the allotment of the tract should be made. Some modifications were made by a law of 1790. By the laws noted, the commissioners of the land-office were given power to decide on the merits of applicants for the state bounty and to accept or reject applications as they saw fit. They were instructed to prepare two large boxes. In one box to be placed pieces of paper bearing each the name of a claimant from the list of accepted ones. In the other box were pieces of paper, each bearing the number of a lot and a township so that every lot in the twenty-five townships should be represented. A name and a lot should be drawn at the same time and the lot should be assigned to the one whose name came with it.

In accordance with the law the drawing of lots began on July 3, 1790, the same day on which the report of the Surveyor-General was accepted, and the townships given their names. The issue of patents to the grantees began the same day. The work of allotment continued all through the month of July, until the 2,500 lots were exhausted. Following are the grantees of the lots which now compose Van Buren:

- 1—Christian Charles, private.
- 2—Abraham Swartwout, captain.
- 3—William Noyes, sergeant.
- 4—James Skaats, corporal.
- 5—John Welch, matross.

- 6—John Johnston, matross.
- 7—Benjamin Epton, private.
- 8—Benjamin Herring, ensign.
- 9—Patrick Davis, private.
- 10—Abraham Ten Eyck, lieutenant.
- 11—Reserved lot.
- 12—William Lee, corporal.
- 13—Patrick Downs, private.
- 14—William Gurtley, matross.
- 15—Reserved lot.
- 16—William Ockerman, matross.
- 17—Michael Connolly, lieutenant.
- 18—Henry Pawling, captain.
- 19—Peter Davis, private.
- 20—John House, private.
- 21—Nathan Whipple, private.
- 22—Abel Jacobs, matross.
- 23—James Rosekrans, major.
- 24—James Lewis, matross.
- 25—Francis Horner, matross.
- 26—George Houseman, private.
- 27—Henry Swartwout, lieutenant.
- 28—Jacob Haring, private.
- 29—John Corter, private.
- 30—Joseph Collins, private.
- 31—John Cunningham, bombardier.
- 32—Daniel Tappen, sergeant.
- 33—James Scott, fifer.
- 34—John F. Vacher, surgeon.
- 35—John Williams, private.
- 36—Daniel Minema, surgeon.

Lots 11 and 15, were of the six set aside in each township for special purposes. It was intended that one lot in each township should be set aside for the support of school and church extension, and one other for the support of literature. The remaining four were for other purposes. The Onondaga County Board of Supervisors on September 28, 1796, designated lot 15 as one of the lots reserved for literature, and it remained public property until 1813, when by order of the Legislature it was granted to Pompey Academy. Lot 11 was turned over to the town by the Legislature in March, 1798, and remained as a public lot for many years, but finally passed into private hands as the town became closely settled.

The patents granted to the veterans

in 1790 were signed by Governor Clinton and bore the seal of the proper office. A number of them are in existence yet, and are treasured with care by their owners. In these patent the state reserved title to all gold and silver mines, and made a proviso for highways. The reservation as to mines has never been of much value to the state. There is on record at Syracuse the patent granted to Benjamin Epton for Lot No. 7, on which the First Ward of Baldwinsville now stands. It will stand as an example of all.

"The People of the State of New York, by the grace of God, free and independent, To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting: Know ye that in pursuance of an act of our Legislature, passed the sixth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, entitled 'an act to carry into effect the concurrent resolutions and acts of the Legislature for granting certain lands promised to be given as bounty lands and for other purposes therein mentioned,' we have given, granted, and confirmed, and by these present do give, grant and confirm unto Benjamin Epton all that certain tract or lot of land situate, lying and being in the County of Montgomery, and in the township of Camillus, known and distinguished on a map of the said township, (filed by our Surveyor-General in our Secretary's office agreeable to law) by Lot number seven containing six hundred acres, together with all and singular the rights, hereditaments and appurtenances to the same, belonging or in any wise appertaining, excepting and reserving to ourselves all gold and silver mines, and also five acres of every hundred acres of the said tract or lot of land for highways. To have and to hold the above described and granted premises unto the said Benjamin Epton, his heirs and assigns as a good and indefeasible estate of inheritance for ever. On condition nevertheless that within the term of seven years to be computed from the first

day of January next ensuing the date hereof, there shall be one actual settlement made on the said tract or lot of land hereby granted, otherwise, these, our Letters Patent and the estate hereby granted shall cease, determine and become void. In testimony whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made patent, and the great seal of our state to be hereunto affixed, Witness our trusty and well beloved George Clinton Esquire, Governor of our said State, General and Commander in chief of all the militia, and Admiral of the navy of the same, at our City of New York, this sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, and in the fifteenth year of our independence.

(L.S.)

GEO. CLINTON.

Approved by the Commissioners of the Land Office and passed the Secretary's Office the sixth day of July, 1790.

LEWIS A. SCOTT,

Secretary."

Notwithstanding the proviso in the letters-patent that actual settlements should be made within seven years, there was no rush of immigrants to the Onondaga country from the ranks of the revolutionary ex-soldiers. Here and there a grantee did seek out the lot assigned him and there settle as a citizen of the wilderness, but these cases were the exception to the general rule. The average veteran preferred to spend his later years in the quiet comfort of the older communities, rather than begin a warfare with nature in building a new home on the unsettled western frontier. Out of the 34 soldiers who drew lots in the town of Van Buren, one alone settled on his share, and even in this case it appears that the grantee sold his title and later re-purchased it, an odd circumstance when it is considered that the lot was not a particularly desirable one. This one soldier was John Cunningham, the grantee of lot 38. The greater part of the grantees hastened to sell their new

lands as soon as possible, many of them indeed having assigned their claims long before the patents were issued.

It is an oft-repeated tradition that whole lots were sold in early times by their owners for the actual consideration of a drink of rum. That the story was true in some cases may be very well believed. It must be remembered that the war closed in 1783 and the troops were disbanded. Neither at that time nor for five long years afterward was there any appreciable progress in the opening of the Military Tract. Under the circumstances the soldiers' claims could hardly have been deemed very valuable by their possessors. The sale of claims began at once on the closing of the war. William Gurtley, who was later allotted lot 14 as his share, had assigned his title as early as June 23, 1783. John Williams, who afterward became entitled to lot 42, also assigned his title in that year. From 1783 until the time of the allotment there was a continuous series of assignments by which the veterans divested themselves of their titles to the military lands. Twenty of the 34 Van Buren grantees had signed away their claims before the allotment of 1790. The considerations for these transfers were various. Patrick and Peter Davis, probably brothers, sold their claims in 1785 for fifty pounds each, an unusually high figure. The purchaser thus secured title later to lots 9 and 19. In contrast to these was the sale by James Skaats of his claims for four pounds; of John Welch for three pounds, fourteen shillings, eight pence; of Francis Horner for three pounds, four shillings; and of William Gurtley for three pounds. These sales are typical of what was done by soldiers all through the continental army. Of the fourteen Van Buren grantees who retained title until after the allotment of 1790, at least eleven sold their lots before the close of 1794. The last ones to part with their grants were the holders of

lots 21 and 41 with perhaps also the holder of lot 3. Nathan Whipple, the holder of lot 21, was in 1796 a resident of Petersburg, Rensselaer County, and sold out his title by a deed dated January 13, 1796. John F. Vacher, the holder of lot 41, was a resident of Morris County, New Jersey, and held his land until November 14, 1796, when he also sold out. This closed the era of military holdings so far as Van Buren was concerned.

The successors of the veterans in the ownership of the military lands were the speculators, under which term are really to be included nearly every man of property or prominence in the early history of the state. Many of these were true speculators, buying and selling for quick profits. Others were business men who invested in the frontier lands as in any security, holding their purchases for several years to await a profit from the inevitable advance in values. Land grants passed to and fro like any security, and were found everywhere. To the original patents issued to the veteran grantees in 1790 were added later the numberless tracts of the survey fifties and the states hundreds which were sold at auction by the surveyor-general. All were in the market and at all prices, from two pence up to a dollar or two per acre. Land was cheap in these early years. During the decade of 1791-1800 the Van Buren lots averaged about sixty to eighty cents an acre, as they passed from hand to hand. The actual settlers of that period bought their farms at about the same figures. John McHarrie's contract price in 1795 was 75 cents per acre, and the purchase of David Haynes in 1798 was at 66 cents an acre.

An examination of the deed records of the town of Van Buren shows many names of early note in state history, which were specially linked with the town by the ownership of lands within its limits. Dewitt Clinton, governor of the state, held part of lot 8 from

1790 to 1821. Lieutenant-Governor Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, was interested in lot 13. Aaron Burr, the famous politician, held a part of lot 29 for a time. Nor were the land grants held entirely by citizens of New York state. Among those connected with Van Buren were Samuel Meredith and George McCall of Philadelphia, Robert L. Hooper, James Parker and Thomas Anderson, of New Jersey, Hezekiah Gold, Thomas Johnson, Pierpont Edwards, Seth Turner, Samuel W. Johnson and James Wadsworth, Jr., of Connecticut, with Henry Newman, Edward Edwards, and Josiah Dwight of Massachusetts. The greater part of the land holders were of course residents of the eastern part of New York state. Among residents of New York city are to be found John Lawrence, Alexander McDougal, John W. Watkins, James M. Hughes, William Duer, William J. Vredenburg, John I. Morgan, Thomas Lawrence, Richard Platt, John McLean, Isaac Lawrence, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, Samuel Jones, Jr., William Henderson, James Fairlie, Robert Troup and Frederick Depeyster. From other parts of the Hudson valley were Nathaniel Potter, of Long Island, Peter Van Ness, of Kinderhook, John D. Coe of Haverstraw, Philip Van Cortlandt, of Cortlandt, John Sufferin, of New Antrim, Israel Rogers and Moses Phillips, of Wallkill, Theodoras Bailey, of Poughkeepsie, Philip Verplank, of Fishkill, Alexander Neely, of America, William McKown, Teunis Van Vechten, Jeremiah Schuyler, John I. Cuyler, John Brown and Matthew Visscher, all of Albany, Stephen N. Bayard and Cornelius Van Dyck, of Schenectady, John Woodworth and William Gilliland, of Troy, Archibald McIntyre, of Johnstown, Abraham G. Lansing, of Lansingburgh, Stephen Thorn, of Greenville, John Williams, of Salem, and John Addams, of Plattsburgh. Nearly all the names here mentioned belonged to leaders in the political or commercial affairs of their

time. Others of the land owners of this region were residents of Central New York, and of these will be recognized William Cooper, Peter Ten Broeck and Francis Henry, of Otsego county, Asa Smith and William Shattuck, of Romulus, Walter Wood, Abiathur Hull, John Richardson, Sylvanus Hussey and Thomas Mumford, all of Scipio, Francis Lamman, George W. Kirkland and Thomas R. Gold, of Oneida county, Timothy Sweet and Phineas Barnes of Pompey, Aaron Wood and Daniel Mulholland, of Manlius, Robert Earll, of Marcellus, and Joshua Forman, of Onondaga.

The period of speculative land holdings in Van Buren began in 1790 and lasted until about 1820, by which time the greater portion of the town had passed into the hands of residents. The history of the Onondaga awards belongs to this time. Land titles of the Military Tract began early to produce trouble. A statute of 1790 had declared that all conveyance of title since the date of March 27, 1783, should be valid as applying to the lands allotted to soldiers. This legalized all the assignments of claims which had been made by soldiers before the allotment of 1790. The consequence was that where an unscrupulous soldier had sold his claim several times over, as was often the case, there was a clash of rival claimants disputing for possession of that soldier's grant. Several examples of these oft-sold lots may be found in the town of Van Buren. Lot 42 was sold by Williams in 1783, again in 1790, once more in 1791 and a fourth time in 1796. Lot 14 in the same way was sold by Gurtley in 1783, again in 1785, and also about 1787. Other instances of these double titles can be found in lots 1, 7, 12, 20, 21, 22, 37 and 40. To still further make titles uncertain extensive frauds were practised by forgeries and alteration of dates in papers. The presence of squatters, too, who resisted eviction on claims of title and possession, was

another feature that frequently brought complaints to the state officers. Finally, in March, 1797, the legislature created the award commission of three men, who constituted practically a special state court to act on land claims in Central New York. The commission opened books and began its work in September, 1797, holding sessions from time to time until 1801. Over three thousand claims were filed for the action of the commission in order to settle disputes or confirm titles. About forty of these claims were presented by persons interested in the Van Buren lots. The commission began to hand down awards in 1798 and when their work was closed three years later the land titles disputes had been quite completely cleared away. Some were continued in the courts, however, and inheritors under some of the old claims have within very recent times tried to obtain recognition from the actual possessors of Van Buren lands.

VAN BUREN PIONEERS—THE FIRST SETTLERS WHO CAME INTO THE TOWN.

The decade of 1791-1800 was emphatically the pioneer period of Onondaga County history. At its beginning the county was a wilderness. At its end it was a fairly well populated and prosperous territory with its own system of local self-government. In the growth of New York state the development of local civil government kept an exact pace with the spread of the population and is a feature of local history that is not to be passed by unnoticed. In early colonial times all the state west of Albany was included in Albany county. Settlement began to extend westward through the Mohawk valley and a new county was created in 1772 from Albany county. It was called Tryon county and took in the whole of the unsettled western territory. Tryon county was sub-divided into districts, the

westernmost of which was called the Kingsland District and extended from Canajoharie to Lake Erie. The name of Kingsland was later changed to German Flats, and in 1784 the name of the county itself was changed to Montgomery county. It was while included in Montgomery county that the Military Tract was created, surveyed and allotted to the soldiers. Town government began in 1788 when the old division of districts was abandoned. At this time settlement had reached westward into the present Oneida county and among the towns created out of the old districts was Whitestown, having as its social center the hamlet of Whitesborough and extending westward to Lake Erie, taking in the Military Tract entirely. The opening of the Tract to settlement in 1790 gave a great impetus to the continual westward extension of settlement and the result was the creation of Herkimer county in 1791 out of Montgomery and the erection in 1792 of the town of Mexico out of the town of Whitestown, the Onondaga country being included in Mexico. The next change was the erection of the Military Tract itself into the county of Onondaga on March 5, 1794, and its sub-division into towns named after some of the old survey townships.

It must be remembered that the townships laid out by Dewitt in 1790 were simply survey divisions and had no connection with the town system of local civil government, yet, as the old township names had become familiar to the settlers by 1794, the civil towns were named from them. It was in this way that the town of Marcellus received its name in 1794, for its description shows that it was made up "comprehending the townships of Camillus and Marcellus, together with all the residue of the Onondaga reservation and the residue of the reserved lands lying south-west of the said salt lake." The old town of Marcellus extended north to the Seneca river and included the present town of Van Buren. The

growth of the population brought about a change in the town by the setting off of Camillus on March 8, 1799. The new town of Camillus was described by the following clause of the act:

"And be it further enacted: That all that part of the town of Marcellus in the said county of Onondaga, comprehended within the bounds of the township of Camillus, shall be and is hereby erected into a separate town by the name of Camillus, and the freeholders and inhabitants shall be entitled to all the privileges and be subject to the same restrictions and penalties that other towns in this state are by law entitled and subject to, and that the first town-meeting shall be held at the house of Moses Carpenter."

Early settlement in the county of Onondaga can be traced out in a well defined plan having a close relation with the early highways of travel. Two ways of reaching the region presented themselves to the first comers. One way was by water from the north, the other by way of the old Indian trails from the east. Ephraim Webster came to the new country by water and made his trading camp in 1786 in the valley of Onondaga creek. He was followed in 1788 by Asa Danforth, the first home-builder, who also came by water and settled in the creek valley. The same year in which Danforth came the treaty of cession was made, and after it settlers began to come into the country from the east. Travel of that time naturally followed the old trails which extended east and west across the county and the earlier settlers took up their homes along the line of travel. While some of the first comers built their log houses on the heights of northern Pompey, others located themselves in southern Manlius, in the Onondaga Creek valley and still further west in the old townships of Marcellus and Camillus, so that a belt of settlement crossed the county from east to west. As the immigration increased the well-travelled trail through the forest was surveyed and laid out as a public road thus becoming a regular highway. For long years after this, however, it bore the name of the Genesee Trail. Settlers continued to come into the country and many passed on-

ward into Cayuga, building up the hamlets of Aurelius and Scipio townships. Then settlement began to spread slowly southward and northward from the Genesee road, advancing more rapidly in the eastern part of the present county and more slowly in the western. The settlement of Van Buren began as the newer immigrants took up farms further and further away from the old road. Lying as it does but a few miles north of the Genesee Trail, the town began to receive permanent settlers about 1792, and by 1810 the southern part of the town was fairly well settled. The northern section did not receive settlement for some years later. One feature in the pioneer settlement of Van Buren should be noted. The presence of the Seneca river as a highway of travel at the north of the town made possible the early creation of the McHarrie-Baldwin hamlet where Baldwinsville now stands. The effect of this was to extend the line of settlement more toward that one point, leaving the western part of the town to be filled up later.

Some idea of the state of the town when the first pioneers came into it has been handed down to us in local tradition. It was a vast forest extending from the high grounds of the south to the marshy banks of the river at the north. Hemlock, beech and pine covered the hill tops and filled the valleys. In the depths of the forest abounded wild game of the larger sort. Bears, wolves and panthers made life and property insecure, while the more harmless deer were occasionally seen in the clearings. The settler who cared to make his camp along the river bank might see from time to time a bateau being laboriously poled up stream or slowly floating down, laden perhaps in the one case with merchandise for the more western settlements or in the other with skins and wild roots for the Hudson Valley traders. Camp Brook, called later Dead Creek, had in these early times an importance that has

since been entirely lost. It was the principal stream of the town and its valley, affording an easy passage from the valleys of the south across to the river, was a well-known thoroughfare. The town was a typical part of the great Onondaga wilderness.

The Seneca river, though of slight local importance in the history of the town of Van Buren, was the scene of a busy traffic. The portion of the river lying west of the Onondaga outlet had remained an unexplored stream for years after the part below the outlet had become well known to explorers. The early mission priests knew of its course in a vague way and as early as 1653 had called it the River of the Senecas because its source was in the Seneca country. The Indians called it the Thiohero, or River of Rushes, in allusion to the water-lilies which then, as now, lined its shallow shores. The name of Cayuga river was also attached to it. As soon as the tide of immigration began to move toward the unsettled west a boating trade had sprung up on the river and extended from Oneida lake far to the westward. Goods were brought from the Mohawk through Wood creek and Oneida lake to the settlers of the Cayuga and Seneca country, and pioneer home seekers built their cabins here and there along its banks just as John McHarrie did in Van Buren about 1792. The Seneca was later declared a public highway by a legislative act of August, 1798.

The Indian, always a picturesque and sometimes a terrible figure in the pioneer history of New York, takes but a very humble place in the history of Van Buren. The town was a part of the old hunting-ground of the Iroquois and the Indians' right to hunt in all parts of their old territory was preserved to them by the cession treaty of 1788. In Van Buren the Dead Creek valley was their highway from the Onondaga towns to the Seneca river and a trail ran north and south, close by the creek, along which their hunting par-

ties came and went. It was from the Indian hunters' camps that the creek got its earlier name of Camp Brook. The town was settled too late to have a record of Indian warfare with its horrors of tomahawk and scalping-knife. Such Indians as the pioneers knew were peaceful and friendly. A little Indian village was located at Jacks Rifts, close by the western limit of the town, when the first settlers came upon the scene, and remains of a fruit orchard on Lot 3 indicated that something more permanent than a hunting camp had once been situated there. Some of the trees of this old orchard were preserved as late as 1873. Every summer the Indian hunters came up from the south for a season of sport in the dense woods or along the streams and the oldest of settlers used to tell how, on cold nights, the savages would seek shelter of their white friends and lie around on the floors of the log cabins before the great fire-place, wrapped in their blankets or bear-skin robes.

The life of a pioneer of the last century in Central New York was practically the same as that of the frontier settler of today. With his axe and gun, his blankets and his kettle, he found a spot to suit his fancy near a running spring and began his new home. Probably many could say, as did David Haynes, that they spent some nights in the open air and built fires to keep away the howling wolves. The early settler chopped down trees and built his rude log cabin, filling the chinks between the logs with clay or sod and building up a large fire-place at one end. Thus he made a home. Around about the cabin the trees were cut away and the stumps burned out until a little field could be tilled and a crop of corn or wheat could be sown. So the work went on. The wandering Indians were of no importance in the pioneers' life except as they brought scraps of news or imparted information about hunting regions. The river traffic of the north seems not to have had

any local influence during these earlier years. The center of the social and commercial life of the county was at Onondaga Hollow and here was where the early Van Buren pioneer made his business trips. His mail all came to the postoffice at the Hollow and at the little country stores of that hamlet he bartered his peltries, his fleeces and his produce for supplies. At Jamesville were located the Danforth mills, where the earliest milling was done and to this point also the settler made his regular trips with the season's grist. There was no newspaper in the county until after 1800 and the press of the eastern cities probably seldom reached the backwoods of that time. News passed from mouth to mouth. Politics existed then as they always have since the Revolution. Federalists and Republicans waged a wordy war over their respective principles and fought out their disputes at the polls. Undoubtedly the early settler had his convictions and travelled miles across country on election day to support them.

In many of the minor conveniences of life the homes of the pioneers were lacking. Oftentimes the flight of time in the wilderness was noted by notched sticks or some similar contrivance. An interesting story is yet told of one day when the Haynes family made a mistake in its domestic calendar by which Sunday came a day too soon. They followed their usual custom of making a neighborly Sabbath visit to the McHarrie cabin and were startled to see the elder McHarrie breaking the Sabbath, as they supposed, by chopping in the woods. Sitting on a log in the forest, they compared their reckonings until the error was discovered. Another incident of this early time is told of Mrs. Haynes. One of her children had fallen from some height and was picked up unconscious. The mother saddled a horse, took the child in her arms and rode eight miles through the forest to the nearest doctor, who was

located in the southern settlements. Such anecdotes as these throw an instructive light on the daily life of that time. They indicate something of the loneliness that surrounded the pioneer's life.

There was practically no passing travel through Van Buren. Now and then an early surveyor made his appearance and set his stakes and it may be imagined that he was a welcome guest for the news that he could bring from the outer world. A receipt that is on record in the office of the county clerk shows the name of one of these early surveyors. It is here given:

June 11, 1792. Received of Mr. Thomas Vermilya twelve dollars in full for surveying lot number 2 in the township of Camillus and lot number 76 in the township of Fabius for Simeon Dewitt.

Benj'n Day.

No regular roads existed in the town for many years after settlement began. The old trail through the Dead Creek valley was used by the more northern settlers to go southward, while forest paths crossing the town from cabin to cabin availed for neighborly communication. Along these paths the settler paced with gun in hand, keeping a wary eye for any passing wild beast.

As in other parts of the county some of the first settlers of Van Buren were those trappers and squatters whose lives were of the frontier and shifted with it. They could stay in a section until the advent of settlers drove away game and spoiled their solitude and then would move onward to wilder scenes. There were a great many of these men in the early history of the Military Tract. Some settled down and became citizens. Others moved away and were unknown to those who came after them. There is little of exactness in the data of early settlement in Van Buren which have remained to us. Probably the year 1791 is the earliest date to which can be assigned any regular settlement in the town.

The first one of whom anything defi-

nite may be said must remain nameless for he was but a solitary trapper. At the time that the first surveyors entered the town, which is supposed to be in 1791, they found a trapper living alone in a cabin on Lot 40, about where the hamlet of Warner now stands. The surveyors made his hut their headquarters while working in that section. One night they returned from their work and found the trapper lying dead in his bed. He was buried by them in the woods close by the north line of the lot. The grave was rounded over and was often pointed out by early settlers, but its site is now uncertain.

Another settler who came about 1791 was John Dunn who cleared a space and built a cabin on Lot 12 on the knoll across the road from the residence of the late Luther Hay. He lived there as trapper and farmer for several years until the death of his wife and then packed his belongings and moved away. Nothing more is known of him.

Joseph Wilson was probably the first permanent settler of the town. The date of 1792, which Clark gives for his settlement, seems not to be disputed. Wilson was a native of Limerick and came across the water when his son, Robert, was seven years of age. The family seems to have lived in Washington county for a time and to have removed from there to the Onondaga country, settling on the survey-fifty of Lot 38. Here he lived a number of years and dying early in the present century left several children from whom descend many families now resident in the town. He was buried in the old cemetery at Ionia. James Wilson and Robert Wilson were sons of Joseph. Of his daughters, Martha married David Haynes, Elizabeth married William Lakin, and Isabella married Samuel Marvin. A grandson of the pioneer, also named Joseph, was a prominent man in the town during the earlier years of its separate existence.

John McHarrie was the first permanent settler in the northern part of the

town. The year 1792 has been put forward as the time of his coming and seems probable, although the inscription on the McHarrie monument in the Baldwinsville cemetery sets it in 1794. This monument was put up in 1834 at the grave of John McHarrie, Jr., who died in that year aged 42 years. It says that he was the son of John and Lydia, and that he "emigrated with them from Maryland at the age of two years and were the first settlers in the place A. D. 1794." John McHarrie, the pioneer, was of Scotch-Irish stock and was a revolutionary veteran. He moved with his family from Maryland to the Seneca country and later came down the Seneca river and chose a home at the rifts on Lot 7. His cabin stood near the present east line of the cemetery. Here he died November 26, 1807, aged 55 years, and was buried in the field not far from his home. The land where his remains were placed continued to be used for burial purposes from this time and was the nucleus of the present Riverside cemetery. John McHarrie, Jr., only son of the pioneer, has no living descendants, but from a daughter, Lydia, who married Gabriel Tappen, can be traced many well-known families of today.

Daniel Allen was a settler on Lot 7 in 1793, according to a deed of the year 1808. Little can be said of him. His cabin stood, probably, on ground now included in the cemetery, since his deed of a hundred-acre tract dated March 29, 1798, describes it as being in the northwest corner of the lot and laid out in an oblong extending along the river bank. His name does not occur as an elector of the town in 1807 and he had probably left the region or died before that date.

Sometime about the year 1795 David Haynes came to Van Buren as a pioneer. He was born June 9, 1771, at Lisbon, N. H., and in early manhood lived at Stillwater near Albany. While living there he became acquainted with an inn-keeper named McKown who at

that time held title to Lot 12. The latter, according to the usual statement, agreed to give Haynes a part of the lot in consideration of an actual settlement by the younger man. Haynes accordingly came to the place and made a settlement on the lot. On May 14, 1798, the owner deeded to Haynes a tract of 150 acres in the southeast corner of the lot which is still in possession of the family. No other land in the town has been in possession of a single family so long a time. A few years after his arrival in the town David Haynes married Martha Wilson and in 1799 a daughter was born to the pair, who had the distinction of being the first white child born in the town. After some years on his property Haynes removed to Salina. He returned to his farm in 1816 and the remainder of his life was spent partly on his Van Buren farm which he had increased by new purchases, partly in Salina where he conducted a salt business and partly in the West. He finally returned to the farm and died there May 26, 1841. He is buried at Baldwinville. Nine children were born to him, none of whom are now alive, though many grandchildren still live in the town. His children were Elizabeth, wife of S. P. Smith, John, Cornelia, Polly, wife of Philip Farrington, Thaddens, Edward, Horace, Brooks and James.

Elizabeth Haynes, better known in the family by the old-fashioned "Betsy," the first child born in the town, is worthy of special note. Her birthday was March 19, 1799. She was taken to the village of Salina in early life when the family removed there from the farm and there married Samuel P. Smith. She lived in Salina the rest of her life, dying there May 9, 1875, and being buried in the old Salina cemetery. Seventeen children were born to her and several are yet living.

Ebenezer Spencer is an early settler whose existence is known only by the evidence of a deed on record in the county clerk's office. He bought 150

acres of land on October 10, 1795, from the owner of Lot 40. This deed is the first one given to a grantee resident in the limits of the present town. No further trace of him occurs in the records and as his title lapsed it is evident that his stay in the locality must have been short.

John Wigent is said to have come into the town in 1796 and to have built his log cabin just east of Memphis near the present town line. The house was used in the early years, it is said, as a polling-place for the general elections. Some years later the family removed to the northern part of the town. Little information seems available in regard to this one of the pioneers, although he has numerous descendants living in the town. He seems to have died about 1824.

William Lakin came to the town at an early day, probably about 1796. He was born at Groton, Massachusetts, October 11, 1758, and while yet a young man joined a New Hampshire regiment and served through the Revolution, being wounded in the service. In some way he found his way to Washington county where he met and married Elizabeth Wilson. Their only child, John Lakin, was born here, the date being, according to his tombstone, April, 1795. Shortly afterward Lakin followed his father-in-law, Wilson, to the Onondaga country and settled near Memphis, dying Feb. 23, 1835. He is buried at Ionia.

John Tappen, another pioneer, was born in New Jersey about 1756 and served in a New Jersey regiment during the Revolution. He removed from New Jersey with his family to a location near Cazenovia and after a stay of two or three years there, came in 1790 to Van Buren and settled west of Ionia. Here he lived the quiet life of the times until his death on November 22, 1818. Four months later his wife died and both are buried in the old cemetery at Ionia, the land on which it is located having been a corner of Tappen's property which had been set aside by him

for burial purposes. The antique stone at his grave is quaintly inscribed to the memory of "Deacon" John Tappen. The children of this pioneer were Abram, Gabriel, Asher, Stephen and William Tappen, and Betsy, wife of Harry Clark; Nancy, wife of Elijah Snow; Electa, wife of Stephen Hart; Sally, wife of James Barber, and Phoebe, wife of James Williams.

Samuel Marvin is an early settler who probably came to the town as early as 1799. He was born in Connecticut about 1779 and came to the Onondaga country as a young man. He married Isabella Wilson and took up a farm on Lot 11, where he died in 1814. A deed for his land was given to his heirs in June of that year. His remains rest unmarked in an almost forgotten burial plot on Lot 38. Two of his children, Asher T. Marvin and Mrs. Louisa Williams are yet living at an advanced age.

The Taber family came to the town quite early, probably about 1800. The family is not now represented in the town, but in early years was of some importance. Gardner Taber and Esek Taber, two of its members, appear to have been brothers. Daniel and Benjamin Taber, who were land owners on Lot 25 as early as 1805, may, perhaps, have been brothers of the preceding. The first marriage that took place within the present town limits was that of James Wilson and Roby Taber. One authority states that this Roby Taber was the daughter of Gardner Taber. Esek Taber died in 1814 and his will mentions his wife, Roby, and his daughter, Roby Nichols. The death of Mrs. Jonathan Taber is said to have been the first death in the town. Unfortunately for the requirements of history, no dates have been preserved for either the first marriage or the first death.

These different families as named seem to be the only ones whose settlement in the town can be referred with any degree of certainty to the last century. Previously published accounts

have assigned others to these early years, but close examination of the records fails to disclose any evidence to make the claim a certainty. The Linsday family, for instance, which has been credited with coming as early as 1795, may have come to the highlands of southern Camillus as early as that, but does not appear in the town of Van Buren until after the present century opened. The Molby family has been given the date of 1797, does not appear on the records until 1804. Amos Warner and Eleazer Dunham, formerly given the date of 1800, did not come until after that.

Much uncertainty as to the early settlers could probably be removed by an examination of the manuscript records of the old federal census taken in 1800 and 1810. These records are preserved at Washington and, though jealously guarded, are occasionally thrown open to inquirers.

THE EARLY SETTLERS—LIST OF EARLY COMERS AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDS.

It is a difficult matter now to obtain exact information of any sort in regard to the greater part of those whom we of this latter day honor as "the early settlers." Many of the families who came early to the town of Van Buren have died out or have gone further west. Thirty years ago inquiries regarding these matters might have been rewarded by positive information that is now lost by the deaths of those persons who possessed it. Data must now be gathered from recorded deeds and mortgages, from census returns, family Bibles, public records or private papers. From these different sources can be gleaned by much labor the facts from which conclusions may be drawn. This paper is little more than a summary of notes gathered here and there about the earlier arrivals in Van Buren without effort to do more than marshal them in convenient form.

*Jonathan Stevens. born Sept 2, 1720, died Jan. 6, 1796
See Cemetery at Warsaw*

The list of those whose arrival is assigned to the last century has already been given, but for convenience of reference may be repeated. They are: John Dunn, about 1791; Joseph Wilson and John McHarie, about 1792; Daniel Allen, in 1793; David Haynes and Ebenezer Spencer, about 1795; John Wigent, William Lakin and John Tappen, in 1796; Samuel Marvin, about 1799, and the Tabers, about 1800.

As early as 1803 a family group came into the town from Pompey and settled in the southwestern part of the town, where Phineas Barns, Sr., of Pompey, had bought land in 1801. This group was composed of Phineas Barns, jr., his brother-in-law, Amos Warner, and the brother of the latter, Ezra Warner. Phineas Barns was prominent in the early growth of the town. He died August 6, 1825, aged 44 years, and is buried at Ionia. Amos Warner was born in 1780 in Stockbridge, Mass., and lived at Pompey before coming to Van Buren. His death occurred January 20, 1868, and he is buried at Warner. Ezra Warner, his brother, died July 10, 1844, aged 56 years. Eber Hart was another early comer, who bought a farm in 1803. He was a native of Rhode Island. He died about 1842 and is buried at Sorrel Hill. Moses Rogers came to the town about 1804. The Rogers family came from Wallkill, Ulster county, where Israel Rogers in 1785 bought the land-grants of Patrick and Peter Davis and thus became owner in 1785 of Lots 9 and 19 in Van Buren. His son, Moses, came to the Onondaga country and on the death of his father in 1805 became owner of part of Lot 19. Jonathan Molby purchased part of Lot 12 in 1804. He came from Connecticut, but is said to have lived in the Mohawk region before coming to Van Buren. His death seems to have occurred about 1825. Joel Foster bought part of Lot 25 in 1804 and removed from Pompey. He died June 17, 1834, aged 51 years, and is buried at Ionia.

In 1805 the names of Benjamin and Daniel Taber appear as grantees on Lot 25. So also do those of Henieal Warner and Reuben Woodard. Benjamin Taber sold out in 1815 and Daniel Taber in 1818. Neither appear in the records again and probably left the town. Henieal Warner sold his farm in 1813 and may also have removed. Woodard lived many years in the town. About 1805 John Clark, who had bought part of Lot 12 from David Haynes, seems to have come into the town. He sold out in 1818 to a man of the same name as himself.

About 1806 or 1807 Ebenezer Wells and Reuben Smith settled on Lot 7. Smith came from Westford, Massachusetts, and made his new home near the McHarie cabin at the rifts. He afterward went west. Ebenezer Wells was a native of Wethersfield, Connecticut, where he was born in 1756. He lived for a time in Rensselaer county where his son, James Wells, was born in 1783. He purchased part of Lot 7 about 1808 and died February 22, 1812. His remains lie in the Academy lot on the Baldwinsville north-side. In 1806 also one Aaron Smith settled on Lot 27. In 1811 his cabin burned down and he left the town to seek another home. Ebel Goddard settled on Lot 7 about this time, coming from Massachusetts. He removed to the West later.

For the year 1807 there is a valuable bit of evidence to be cited. In that year a state census was taken of all citizens who were entitled to vote by reason of owning or occupying land. The old town of Camillus had 203 electors and 38 of these can be recognized as of Van Buren. The list does not, of course, indicate every family of residents. It is here given:

Phineas Barns,	Eljah Rice,
Ira Barus,	Joseph Robinson,
John C. Briton,	Abraham Rogers,
John Clark,	Moses Rogers,
Peleg Cornell,	Benoni Sherman,
Stephen Grego,	Benjamin Tabor,
Isaac Earll,	Daniel Tabor,

Jonathan Foster,
David Haines,
Eber Hart,
William Laken,
Isaac Lindsay,
John McHarry,
Daniel McQueen,
Peter McQueen,
David Parish,
Jonathan Parish,
Josiah Parish,
Samuel Parish,

Asher Tappen,
Gabriel Tappen,
John Tappen,
Amos Warner,
Hannel Warner,
Henry Warner,
Seth Warner,
Calvin Waterman,
Joseph Wilson,
Reuben Woodard,
John Wygent,
James Young.

John C. Britton was a Revolutionary veteran who came from New Jersey to Onondaga county, settling near Ionia. He died in 1842 and is buried in the old cemetery. Jonathan Foster also lived near Ionia and died in 1830. So also died Ira Barnes, whose death on October 8, 1861, at the age of 81 years is recorded on his tombstone in the old cemetery. Abraham Rogers seems to have been a son of Moses Rogers. He was a land-owner in the town as late as 1825. Gabriel Tappen and Asher Tappen, who appear in the census returns, were sons of John Tappen.

Elijah Rice was an early settler on Lot 39. Benoni Sherman had a farm on Lot 27 close by. Seth Warner and Henry Warner were also on Lot 39. Seth Warner was born about 1775. He came to the town in 1807 and was a prominent man in early town affairs, dying at an advanced age. Daniel McQueen was an early settler on Lot 12 and Peter McQueen was probably of the same family, although when he first appears as a land-owner in 1814 he is located on Lot 43.

Quite a group of the electors of 1807 were resident in the eastern part of the town. Isaac Earll, Calvin Waterman and James Young were near the Van Buren corners. Joseph Robinson and the Parishes were in the extreme southeast section. Stephen Crego was on Lot 23 and Isaac Lindsay on Lot 29.

The Lindsay family, including Isaac, William and Elijah Lindsay, brothers, seem to have removed from southern Camillus to the Van Buren region

about 1807. Heman Warner, brother of Seth Warner, is believed to have at this time settled on Lot 40. Abner Hitchcock, a blacksmith, was also a settler on Lot 40, while John Shannon was located on Lot 12.

About 1808 John Cunningham settled on Lot 38. He deserves something more than passing notice as he was the only Revolutionary veteran of the town who settled on the lot assigned to him by the state in 1790. Cunningham was a soldier in Machin's company of the Artillery Regiment. His company was a part of the expedition against the Onondaga Indians in 1779 and Cunningham may possibly have visited the Onondaga country then. After the war he settled at Newburgh, Orange county, from whence he came to Van Buren. Cunningham is said to have been of Irish birth and his wife to have been a Scotch woman named Elizabeth Nicholson. John Cunningham, Jr., his son, spent most of his life in Van Buren, but his descendants have all left the town. Robert H., another son, was killed by an accident about 1825 and his descendants are also gone. Catherine, sister of Robert, married Samuel Howe, and from her descended members of the Howe, Haynes, Crum, Van Wie, Reed, O'Brien and other families of the town. Another sister married one Burgess. John Cunningham, Sr., died about 1820 and was buried on Lot 38. His widow died about 1832.

Other settlers known to have come to the town about 1808 are Linus Squire on Lot 27 and Delanson Foster, Jonathan Skinner, Samuel Skinner, Aaron Foster and Samuel Willard on Lot 40. Philip Hodges appears on the records, too, as a land-owner on Lot 22, while about this time, probably, Augustus Harris settled on Lot 14 on land which had been bought by the Harris family in 1804.

Records of 1809 show Jonathan Taber as a land-owner on Lot 39, Charlton Britton on Lot 12 and Benjamin Depuy on Lot 7. Alvin Bostwick settled on

Lot 27 in this year, and about this time Nathan and Isaac Bentley settled on Lot 39. Esek Taber was a land-owner near Ionia in 1810 and James Wells, son of Ebenezer Wells, on Lot 7. Charles H. Toll came to the town about 1810 and also settled at Ionia.

Several names of known settlers do not appear upon the records, although they came to the town in these early years. In Clark's history is mentioned one Benjamin Bolton as an early settler at Jacks Rifts. He is not found in any record. Another early settler at the Rifts was Gilbert Totten. The Delano family which was settled on or near Lot 12 was also among the early arrivals in the town. Daniel Bartholomew is mentioned in an old sketch as one of the early settlers in the western part of the town and Acheson Mellin is known as an early settler in the northern portion of the town.

In 1811 the names of Samuel Beekworth, Elihu and Peter Peck appear as pioneers on Lot 41. Daniel Savage was settled in the same section on Lot 22 and David Cornell on Lot 29. The latter died in 1824 aged 72 years. James Rogers, son of Moses Rogers, became a land-owner on Lot 19 in 1811. Thomas Marvin came to Lot 40 from Connecticut in 1811 with his sons, George, Norton, Joseph, Warren, Henry and Ralph.

In 1812 John Ingalsbee, Moses Howe, Luther Seaver and Phineas Meigs settled in the Sorrel Hill region. John Wright bought land near Ionia. Nathaniel Cornell, Sr., and Cyrus H. Kingsley settled near Van Buren and Nicholas Vader came to the northwestern part of the town. In this year Thaddeus Sweet, Clark Eldred, Ephraim Smith and Reuben Smith had land on Lot 13 which they lost a little later when their titles proved worthless. The Reuben Smith mentioned may perhaps be identical with the earlier settler on Lot 7. Henry B. Turner was a militia captain in this year.

More names come upon the records with the year 1813. James Clark and

Ethan Daniels were on Lot 8 and Elijah Barnes, Eli Ketchum and one Walker were in the same region. In the eastern part of the town were John Patch, Holder and John Cornell, Benjamin Parish and, on Lot 41, John H. Lamerson and John Sears. Aaron Warner was near Ionia. In the northern part of the town were Nathan Williams on Lot 10, Chester Molby on Lot 11, John Williams on Lot 7 and Charles Turner on Lot 14.

In 1814 come the names of Eleazer Dunham, Loami Wilcox, James and Jonathan Paddock, Robert Wilson and Stephen Shead near Ionia. Henry Spores and Douw Smith settled on Lot 20, the latter of whom died in 1841, at the age of 104 years. A man named Campbell was on Lot 21, John Morley and Rudolphus Auchampauch were on Lot 28 and David Tillotson on Lot 40. In the eastern section Joshua S. Hulse was on Lot 22, Josiah Hodges and Vine Branch on Lot 23, Elijah Waterman on Lot 29 and the Brewster and McAllister families on Lot 15. Jost C. Finck located on Lot 10.

Near Ionia are found in 1815 the names of Pardon Hart, Peleg Taber, James Rice, Levi Carter and Thomas Smith. Dr. Jonathan S. Buel is said to have come to the town in this year. Frederick Ouderkirk and a McGee family were located on Lot 4.

In 1816 Marcus Rice, Robert Rogers, Alfred Little, Isaac Saxton, John C. Weeks and David Calkins are land-owners on Lot 9, Thomas W. Curtis and Simon Rouse on Lot 19, Hazael Henderson, Samuel Howe and Waty Meigs on Lot 20, Henry Cook and Richard McLaury near Ionia, while in the east Enos Talmage was on Lot 21, Thomas Bowen, Nicholas Lamerson and Renoni E. Danks on Lot 22, John L. Cooper and Holden L. Albro on Lot 23, John Savage and Zar Patch on Lot 42, John Bowman and Daniel Nelson on Lot 43.

HAMLETS AND LOCAL NAMES—SKETCHES
OF THE CENTERS OF POPULATION
IN VAN BUREN.

Much of the local history of a town groups itself around its villages and hamlets. The circumstances of their creation and the incidents of their growth are often important portions of the general history of the town. In Van Buren the settlements of Ionia, Canton, Warners, Van Buren and Macks-ville were centers of some little importance in earlier years, though now absorbed or overshadowed by larger places.

Ionia was the first place in Van Buren to take upon itself the semblance of villagehood. Its existence as a settlement dates really from about 1813, when the state road toward Sodus Bay was laid out. The southwestern corner of the town was the oldest settled portion and the most advanced generally. Lot 25, whose owner was Peter Ten Broeck, of the Town of Onondaga, was the first one of the military lots in the section to be parcelled out and sold to resident owners and the first parcel sold was a hundred-acre tract which went into the possession of the Barnes family in 1801. This tract included that part of Ionia north of the east-and-west road and on it Phineas Barnes settled, being, undoubtedly, the first settler at the corners.

The first buildings in the section were, of course, log cabins, but in 1808 the corners became dignified by the erection of the first frame house within the limits of the present town. Phineas Barnes, according to the usual version, was builder and owner. Another account which may not be, perhaps, entirely accurate, gives more detail in these words: "The first frame house was built for Joseph Wilson at Ionia, Isaac and Nathan Bentley doing the carpenter work and Phineas Barnes the

mason work." A few years later, probably in 1813, the first school-house in the town was put up near the corners. Earlier than this John Tappen had given land a little west of the corners for the first cemetery in the town.

When the state road was located about the year 1813 and became a travelled highway with a bridge crossing the Seneca a change took place at "Barns' Corners," as the locality had been called. A post-route was extended over the new highway and Charles H. Toll built at the corners a country tavern for the convenience of passing peddlers, drovers, travellers and post-riders. A justice court with Toll as justice was established in 1814. A country store was started by Toll as well, and in 1816, or perhaps a little later, the first postoffice in the town was created there, with Charles H. Toll as first postmaster and Ionia as its official name. The place was now a growing village with excellent prospects for the future. Settlers increased in number around the corners. In 1815, according to Clark, Dr. Jonathan S. Buel had located here, the first physician in the town of Van Buren. Three years later, in 1818, came Theodore Popell, the first lawyer, and about the same time came Dr. Uriah H. Dunning. The first library in the town was established by a meeting held April 9, 1816, in the old school-house. It was called the Alexandrian Library and was kept up for many years. The first trustees were Stephen V. Barnes, Phineas Barnes, Levi Carter, Seth Cushman and Charles H. Toll. The second church society of the town, the Christian Society, was organized in 1818 at Ionia.

At the full tide of prosperity came a check. The Erie canal was built and the village of Canton was laid out less than a mile away on the new highway of commerce. The post-route over the state road was abandoned. New inns and stores were built close by the side of the great ditch. The future greatness of Ionia was a dream of the past. For

many years, however, after the canal was built the older settlement retained a great deal of local importance. Drs. Uriah H. Dunning and Joshua L. Hardy were local physicians. Abel Lyon and James Hawley were local storekeepers. Medad Curtis is said by Clark to have been here located as a lawyer, but this seems to be an error. The first church edifice of the town was built here by the Christians in 1829. Eleazer Dunham, a rough specimen of the backwoods boniface, succeeded to the place of tavern-keeper about 1824. At his inn was held the first town meeting of the newly created town of Van Buren on April 28, 1829, as well as the succeeding town meetings of 1830, 1831 and 1832. At the corners were also held from year to year the fall elections, general trainings, political meetings and other events of general interest. Here was kept the office of the town clerk for a long time. But the decline of its importance slowly went on. The postoffice, long held by Charles H. Toll, was discontinued in 1838, or rather removed to Canton with a change of name. Town meetings were more seldom held there and only once after 1832 was it so favored. Eleazer Dunham passed away, and under Amariah Franklin and his successors the tavern fell in dignity and was finally given up entirely. The old building yet stands on the corners as reminder to older citizens of the past.

Memphis, as a settlement, dates from 1821, when George W. Robinson, the surveyor, was employed to lay out a village along the bank of the Erie canal to be named Canton. There seems to be no record as to whose plan it was to found a rival to Ionia, but possibly Lomami Wilcox, the holder of much of the land in the vicinity, may have been the author of the enterprise. The new village seems to have grown rapidly as canal traffic increased. Dr. William Laughlin was the first physician in the place. Clark's history says he came in 1812, probably a misprint for 1822. Dr. U. H. Dunning came from Ionia later

and was a partner with Laughlin. Drs. Wareham Root and Rufus C. Dunham also settled in the place, the latter being a disciple of the heretical "homoeopath" school. Abram Lipe had a blacksmith shop in the place and Levi Elsworth owned a little foundry here. In 1828 the postoffice at Ionia was removed to the newer village. The name of Canton was already borne by a post-village in St. Lawrence county and the new office was called Canal to prevent confusion. The little village was now a brisk settlement. Canal traffic was active and the place became a center of trade for miles around. Occasional religious meetings were held in the place after 1826 by the Baptist society. Charles H. Toll, who had removed to Canton with the change of the postoffice in 1828, opened an inn and in 1829 another inn was run by Daniel Powell. Isaac Hill and John Lakin were among the early merchants of the place. The first town meeting held at Canton took place in 1834 at the tavern kept by Miles E. Curtis, the supervisor elected at the time being John Lakin, the local merchant. For many years Canton was now the principal place in the town. Among its merchants were David C. Lytle, John D. Norton, Joseph J. Glass and others equally well known. Most of the town meetings were held here until the growth of the Baldwinsville south side began to give Canton a rival. In 1851 the railroad was built through the town and then began the building up of railroad terminal cities at the expense of the way villages, Memphis being one of the places whose future was ended, so far as hopes of extended growth were concerned. The name of the postoffice was changed in December, 1860, from Canal to Memphis. Following is the list of postmasters of the village from the beginning: 1828, Charles H. Toll; 1830, Oliver Nichols; 1835, Job Nichols; 1838, David C. Lytle; 1839, John D. Norton; 1843, Leonard Mason; 1849, Abel H. Toll; 1851, Charles H. Toll; 1853, John Lakin;

1857, Andrew B. Conover; 1858, Wilson Bates; 1861, Anson Dunham; 1866, Charles D. Barnes; 1867, David Shapley; 1869, Seabury M. Higgins; 1871, Henry Crouse; 1885, Irvin R. Burch; 1889, Dwight M. Warner; 1893, Irvin R. Burch.

Warners village grew up near a country tavern located on the old state road. Lots 39 and 40 were settled about the year 1807 and the members of the Warner family were numerous enough to give the locality the distinctive name by which it was long known. About 1813 a school-house was built at the corners on Lot 39 and this became a sort of center for the neighborhood. It was here that the Baptist society, the first church organization in the town, came into existence about 1815. Warners Settlement proper was, however, of later date and was located around the junction of the highways in the center of Lot 40. Heman Warner had settled on Lot 40 about 1807 and was the purchaser in 1814 of one-third of the lot, his tract being a strip running north and south in the center of the lot. He built a house near the place where the roads now cross and about 1812 held a justice court there, which was probably the first one located in the town, his appointment having been made from Albany in that year. The Warner dwelling is constantly referred to in early records as a well-known point by reference to which roads and property lines were located. About 1818 Darius Hunt started a tavern south of the cross-roads and on the state highway, while as early as 1821 was located there a country store run by Luther Scoville and Truman Skinner. About this time Dr. Adonijah White, one of the town's earliest physicians, came from Columbia county and settled near the corners. Abner Hitchcock was the first blacksmith at Warners, having located some years before this. Dr. Jacob O. Loomis was a physician of a later day. The Warners school-house was built in 1824 and in

1831 a religious society was organized at the village. The little settlement was now beginning to assume a slight measure of local importance. Abijah Hudson, an early merchant, sold out in 1825 to John D. Norton, and the latter was followed in the little store by Hezekiah R. Dow, Joseph Marvin and other store-keepers. The creation of the town in 1829 added to the importance of the settlement and the fall elections were held there a part of the time. The town meeting was held at Hunt's tavern in 1833 and again in 1837. About 1838 Hunt died and was followed by William Hall and others. A post-office was established at Warners in December, 1837. It was called Van Buren Center and bore that name for many years to the great trouble of postmasters whose mail was mixed with that intended for the Hardscrabble office. It was changed to the name of Warners in 1870. The building of the railroad in 1851, a little distance south of the older settlement, changed the center of the locality and the newer Warners extended southward to its present location. The building of the first cement works near the village recently was an event that hastened its latter-day development. Finally, it may be noted as of historic interest, though of trivial importance, that in 1894 an officious postoffice department has clipped the final letter from its name and reduced it to simple "Warner." The succession of postmasters of the local office follows: 1837, John Skinner; 1849, George W. Marvin; 1853, John Boley; 1854, Sherburne Noble; 1854, Stephen W. Betts; 1872, George W. Davis; 1884, Alvah L. Spaulding; 1885, Duane Van Alstyne; 1889, Thomas H. Marvin; 1894, Ann McAuliffe.

Van Buren Settlement probably owes its beginning to the choice of the corners as a location for a tavern sometime about the year 1820. About this time there seems to have been a moderate amount of travel on the road leading from Ionia through Warners to Van

Buren, connecting the two state highways. A tavern was the natural result of the travel. Before this time the place had no special prominence. Isaac Earll had been an early settler and in 1808 had purchased the land in the vicinity, selling it again in parcels from time to time to Calvin Waterman, John Patch, Nicholas Lamerson and others. Here, it is said, Isaac Earll built the first frame barn in the town and here, about 1813, was erected a log school-house. In 1817 the postoffice was established at Baldwinsville and the state road from Onondaga Hill became a post-route. The first tavern-keeper at the corners is uncertain. Dr. Augustus Harris is the earliest one known, but it is possible that Calvin Bishop, from whom he purchased the site in 1821, may have preceded him as landlord. Harris was a man of some education who settled early in western Van Buren, coming from Albany county, and had already united the callings of physician, farmer and surveyor before becoming inn-keeper. He kept the inn for many years. M. Brown was inn-keeper as early as 1834. The only town meeting ever held at the corners took place at his tavern in 1838. The establishment of the tavern was followed in the course of a few years by other permanencies. Stephen Prouty had a blacksmith shop there in 1829. The postoffice was created in April, 1829. A country store was also started at an early date. The corners were frequently the scene of the fall elections and of general training at these times. After the building of the railroad to Oswego in 1848 the corners relapsed into quiet that has never been aroused. The list of its postmasters follows: 1829, Charles Turner; 1830, James T. Hough; 1831, Adonijah White; 1837, Hezekiah Dow; 1840, Isaac Earll; 1842, Christopher C. Clapp; 1843, Asabel K. Clark; 1845, Hezekiah R. Dow; 1849, Lyman Peck; 1851, John Bowman; 1852, Solomon Keller; 1856, Horatio N. Howe; 1856, Hezekiah R. Dow; 1861, Solomon

Keller; 1862, Emeline Keller; 1866, office discontinued; 1867, Rufus Foster; 1871, Augustus W. Bingham.

Not without interest in this connection are the local names that are found in the Town of Van Buren as in all other towns of this part of the state. They are in many cases relics of the rural life of fifty or sixty years ago, when every man bore a more or less grotesque nickname among his fellows and when not even the neighborhood in which he lived was exempted from the same sort of affliction. Many of these old local nicknames are dying out and in most cases their origin is already nearly forgotten, though fanciful anecdotes of later times, floating around here and there, readily supply the deficiency. It will not be difficult to find many variations of the explanations of these names that here follow.

The name of Jacks Rifts, applied to the rapids of the Seneca at the western edge of the town, was used very early. It is found in a deed of December, 1816. Several different accounts exist to explain the name. One ascribes it to an Indian named Jack, said to have lived by the rifts at an early day. Another account says that Jack was a negro, who lived near the rifts and assisted boatmen to transfer their freight at the rapids. Whatever the origin, the name came with the early settlers and has remained. A bridge was first built across the river at the rifts in 1829 or 1830. It supplanted Snow's bridge as a crossing-place, and the latter was abandoned a few years later. The Jacks Rifts bridge has been rebuilt several times. It originally touched the south bank of the river on the Van Buren side of the town line, but now is on the Elbridge side.

Bangall, on Lot 18, is a place which once gave promise of growing into a village, but the promise was never realized. Its water power and lumber growth made it an excellent place for the first saw-mill and grist-mill men to locate, and there grew up around the

mills a little settlement whose houses were nearly all built of the rough slabs turned out by the little saw-mill. From this is said to have come the early name of "Slab City," applied to the place. Later the name of Bangall came into use. One account says the name was used on account of the fighting propensities of some of the men of that place. Another story is that when the first frame house was built there the work was done by amateur carpenters whose poorly finished timbers had to be pounded and "banged" together by immense effort at the "raising," bringing into use the name of Bang-all. Sand Springs, a later name for Bangall found on the county maps, is derived from the springs which gave name to Sand Spring Brook as early as 1831.

Whiskey Hollow is not far from Bangall. The region was once inhabited by settlers and squatters of the pioneer kind who loved good liquor and loved it often. Their conduct was more or less of a scandal to the more steady-going people of other parts, who dubbed the locality with the picturesque name which time has since made so inappropriate. This name is also said to be derived from an escapade of some of its people in years gone by when a large barrel of whiskey was stolen from the old Bangall distillery and was traced to the Hollow by its owners but never could be found.

Satan's Kingdom is another name of striking sound. Some say that in early years there were settlers in the section whose wildness of conduct earned the place its name. Others say that the name was given sportively in reference to the mischievous pranks of the young people of the place, who loved to play havoc with the rigs that staid farmers or visiting young men left outside while they attended religious services or spelling bees in the old school-house.

Pine Hill, a name applied in a very general way, refers to the great forests that have covered the high grounds since the town was first settled. Beat-

all is a local name for which no origin seems to be given. Pagoda Hill is a title of more recent adoption than any of the foregoing. It comes from the great painted pagoda on the old Hamill barn now on the Quereau farm.

In the northern part of the town is a valley containing a small pond now on the farm of Justus Stephens. The pond is fed by springs of purest water, and in earlier times, when settlers built no fences, but turned their cattle loose, the pond was a gathering place for the herds. The discordant chorus of the cow-bells was always to be heard there and from this came, it is said, the name of Dingle Hole. Another derivation of the word may be found perhaps in the fact that "dingle" is an old English word for a shaded dell often used in the mother country. Some twenty-five years ago the old-fashioned word grated on the ear of a school-marm teaching there and she decided that Pleasant Valley would sound better. She was aided and abetted to an extent that has brought the newer name into common use.

Nearer the center of the town was Shacksboro. In old-fashioned language a "shack" was sometimes a rough hut such as was built by poorer people for temporary use or it was sometimes a lazy, useless man. Both meanings are cited in explanation of the name mentioned. Another suggestion is that it came from the abundance of butternut trees, then called "shag-nut" trees.

The name of Sorrel Hill is stated to have come out of the good-natured badinage of two men at some public gathering. A man from the hill had said something in disparagement of the other's farm soil and the aggrieved one retorted with the nickname of Sorrel Hill, wild sorrel being a weed that abounded on the hill farms.

In the east part of the town was the well-known name of Hard-scrabble, or, as we should translate the old fashioned pronunciation, "hard scramble."

Many stories are told of this, too. One is that it voiced a popular belief that the land there was so poor that it was a hard scramble or task for them to make a living. Another account puts the point of the allusion on the steep hill roads over which a man could not go with a team without a hard scramble to surmount the ridges.

MACKSVILLE—THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE BALDWINSVILLE FIRST WARD.

The First Ward of Baldwinsville has no very eventful history, but the story of its earliest years will not be without interest, since it is an important part of the general history of the town. It is a part of Military Lot 7, which was in 1790 granted to Benjamin Epton, ex-private of the Continental army. Epton, like many another soldier, had sold out his rights some time before the Military Tract allotment. He had, in fact, twice sold them. The better of the two claims thus created passed from Charles F. Weisenfels, the purchaser, to William J. Vredenburg in 1790, and in the same year from the latter to Samuel Meredith, a Philadelphian, who held title a number of years. About 1793 John McHarie came down the river from the western country and found here a handsome spot where fish and game abounded. Here he settled and found ready an opportunity for labor in helping the boats through the rifts on their up trips. In 1793 Daniel Allen also came to the vicinity and settled a little farther up the river near the northwest corner of the lot. Both settlers made contracts with Meredith for land. Allen was given deed for his hundred acres in 1798 and was the first property owner of the south side.

The presence of the rifts at this point made the place a well-known locality and it early became known as "McHarie's Rifts." It was a stopping-place for the river traffic. Above the

rifts there seems also to have been a fording-place. For a number of years early in the century there was a road coming from the south which crossed straight down to the river bank in a northeasterly direction, entering the present cemetery property about where the chapel now stands and ending near the McHarie cabin site. It is probable that this was the old road across the ford, used before the bridge was built as well as afterward until the dam raised the water. This road was resurveyed as late as 1814, but was superseded a few years later. About 1806 the state road to Oswego was laid out, crossing the river at the rifts. Dr. Jonas C. Baldwin, of the Town of Onondaga, had some years before purchased considerable land on the north side of the river at this point and it is said that the laying out of the state road to cross through the Baldwin property was the result of his influence. As soon as the road was located Dr. Baldwin began preparations for the investment of several thousand dollars in commercial improvements. By an act of the legislature passed April 7, 1807, he was empowered to build a bridge not less than twenty feet wide and to take toll thereon for thirty years, in accordance with a certain schedule. Every two-horse carriage paid 20 cents, a two-horse wagon 15 cents, a mounted rider 8 cents and a footman 4 cents, while domestic animals in droves and herds were also taxed for crossing. By another legislative act, passed February 24, 1809, Baldwin was authorized to build a dam, canal and locks and did so, locating the canal on his property on the north side of the river. The first dam was swept away a few months after it was built, but with the help of the settlers around, who saw future good results in local improvements, it was re-built. Mills were soon put up on the north side and a village was fairly started there.

The south side during this time showed no hint of change except for

the coming of a few more settlers. The elder John McHarie, who had never received a deed for his 500-acre purchase, died in 1807 and the next year the land was deeded by Meredith to the McHarie heirs. About this time, the state road having opened the land to settlement, Reuben Smith, Ebenezer Wells, Ebel Goddard and others settled on the south side. Ebenezer Wells and his son, James Wells, purchased tracts on the east side of the great lot, and Benjamin Depuy also owned a tract. Gabriel Tappen, who had married a daughter of the elder McHarie, also held title to a part of the land. None of these settlers, however, seem to have attempted any improvements. On the north side of the river the Baldwin settlement slowly grew and as early as 1820 adopted the name of Baldwinsville. About the same time the south side began to be called Macksville, in allusion to the name of the McHaries. Considerable travel converged at the Baldwin bridge and as early as 1814 travelled highways leading to the settlement at Ionia were located about where Canton street, Water street and the western part of Downer street now lie.

In 1824 came the first awakening to an advance. Stephen W. Baldwin bought from John McHarie for \$511 a thirteen-acre tract including the land north of Water street and the whole river-front. On this purchase Baldwin planned a canal similar to that on the north side to extend from above to below the dam. In 1825 a part of the canal was built, and at the same time Baldwin and Johnson built the saw-mills on the present raw-hide factory site. The canal still exists, but its projected extension across the state road was never carried out, although the right to make such extension was for a time carefully reserved by Baldwin. Another land purchase was made by Baldwin in 1825, when he paid the McHaries \$613 for the tract now enclosed by Canton, Downer and McHarie streets and the river.

About 1827 Baldwin erected the south side grist-mill and added to the impulse of south side growth. In the same year John McHarie laid off the first south side village lot and sold it to Amasa Scoville. It was located on the southwest corner of Water and Syracuse streets. Stephen W. Baldwin a little later employed George W. Robinson to survey a series of village lots on the east side of the state road and these were partly disposed of to purchasers. All this indicates active growth. It was about 1827, probably, that the McHaries built the old red school-house, then some distance away from the settlement, though its site on the corner of Canton and Downer streets is now well within the village limits. In January, 1828, McHarie sold to James Johnson, the mill owner, for \$623, the tract now enclosed by Syracuse, Water, Canton and Downer streets, excepting Scoville's village lot. Water street was the principal street at this time. Stores were located there as early as 1828. James Johnson, the mill-owner, was an early store-keeper. D. Lovejoy & Co. are also mentioned as an early firm of dealers.

The name of Baldwinsville had not at this time been extended to the south side. In conveyances of the period south side village lots are sometimes described as being "opposite Baldwinsville." Macksville was the accepted name of the little village. In 1828 there seems to have been an effort made to supersede the older name of Macksville by that of Wellington, but the effort was not very successful. In a few cases the newer name was used on land conveyances and an example of its use may also be found in the following item from the Syracuse Advertiser of June 4, 1828: "The Greek committee at Syracuse acknowledges the receipt from the ladies of Baldwinsville and Wellington of their very liberal donation of clothing valued at 200 dollars." The new name was never able to supersede the older one.

In 1830 for the first time streets began to be given names. Stephen W. Baldwin laid out and named Seneca street which ran through his land. Canton street was also named. In 1831 names had been given to Water and Syracuse streets. Tappen street, though it was early laid out, seems not to have been named until the forties. Many people had purchased south side village lots in the thirties, but some of these early land-owners' names are now unknown in the vicinity. Those who seem to have been actual residents in the section at the time are Amasa Scoville, Ira Welch, Otis Bigelow, David S. Chapin, Walter D. Herrick, Russell B. Frisbie, Jonas C. Brewster, Austin Baldwin, George S. Wells, Reuben U. Smith, Stephen Prouty, James A. Scoville, Garret L. Cotton, Horace D. Putnam, Joseph W. Heath, Jonathan A. Ormsbee, Andrew Brown, Harlow Chapman, Patrick Carroll, Ebenezer Merrick, David Penoyer, Samuel L. Allen, Origin B. Herrick and Sanford C. Parker.

Some time about 1832 was built the "Travellers' Home," an old-fashioned tavern located on Syracuse street where the Harder residence now stands. Walter D. Herrick in 1829 bought the land on which the tavern later stood, but whether or not Herrick built the tavern is uncertain. The first town meeting brought to Macksville was held at this tavern in 1835, it being then run by John B. Ham. About 1838 it passed into the hands of George B. Parker and after him was run by Hiram Hall, one Snell, Orson Barnes and others, until finally torn down about 1855.

In the thirties was started the old south side academy. The building in which it was held was on Tappen street and was probably put up by Reuben U. Smith, inasmuch as the school went by the name of Smith's Academy. Mr. Smith was the organizer of the school and started it under the management of a Mr. Leavitt and sister, who con-

ducted it for some years. From 1841 to 1843 it was managed by E. D. Barber assisted by Miss Fosdick. Later the principalship was held by Lewis A. Miller. The academy was given up in the forties. During its existence as a select school it was widely patronized and had quite a reputation through the neighboring towns.

James Johnson, the mill-owner, yielded to business ill-fortune in 1831 and his property went under the hammer. By virtue of his holdings of village property he had been the principal man on the south side, but his failure ended that. Reuben U. Smith, who had come to Macksville in the twenties, purchased Johnson's property and took the leading place in the community. He had much to do with building up the little village and was a leading citizen for many years. His death occurred in 1878.

Sanford C. Parker came to Macksville about 1835 from Marcellus. He bought the old saw-mills which were then doing a splendid business. He continued the Water street store which had been run by his mill-owning predecessor and on the upper floor of the store building he established his office as a lawyer, the first one in Macksville. Parker was for twenty years the leading man of the village and did much to make the place well known. In 1836 he built the old stone grist-mill on the site of the present Hotaling mill. It was a remarkably expensive edifice for that day and was regarded with a great deal of admiration. Parker himself bought and sold much land and dabbled in politics. He was assemblyman at the time of his removal to Van Buren from Marcellus. He became supervisor of Van Buren in 1844 and again in 1853. He was president of the village of Baldwinsville in 1853 and 1854, and in the latter year was a defeated nominee for Congress. Parker was the organizer in 1850 of the Baldwinsville masonic lodge, one of the earliest in the county to be organized after the anti-masonic

troubles. He was credited in 1850 with being worth \$100,000, not an insignificant sum now and relatively larger then. Business reverses overtook him finally. He lost most of his property and, after living long enough to see the stone mill, which he had fondly hoped would perpetuate his name, destroyed by fire, he died April 26, 1861, two months later. He is buried in Riverside cemetery.

The building of the stone mill in 1836 kept up the growth of the village. Dr. Philip Sharp, who had come to Macksville before this time as its first physician, was followed about 1836 by Dr. William Cardell and Dr. John E. Todd. A second law office was opened in the village by E. Burr Wigent and another later by Leroy Morgan, afterwards Justice of the State Supreme Court. D. C. Greenfield came to the village in 1848 and completed a quartette of legal lights.

In 1839 the McCabe family built on the northeast corner of Water and Syracuse streets a new tavern in rivalry to the old Travellers' Home. It was called "The Exchange." The new place became a center of the village and was the usual headquarters for general elections, town-meetings and militia trainings. It had different landlords from time to time and was finally destroyed by fire. In 1839 the industrial features of the place were extended by Stephen Pronty's new building on the site of the present Allen carriage shop. He put in the underground waterway and carried on a general blacksmithing and repairing business. After his death in 1847 Hosea Cronkrite continued the business for a time, but finally removed from town. Early in the fifties Ezekiel Morris started in the old Pronty building the business that later grew to considerable proportions as the Morris axe factory of the north side.

The old red school-house on the south side stood on the Canton street corner until about 1844, when it was moved off

and until destroyed by fire a few years since stood as a dwelling-house on Syracuse street close by the corporation line. In its place was built the white school-house, enlarged about 1864 and abandoned when the new brick building was erected. The south side was a part of old School District 41 when Van Buren was separated from Camillus in 1829 and at that time the district was re-numbered as District 18. So it remained until absorbed into the Baldwinsville Union Free School District created in 1864.

The older name of Macksville began to give way to that of Baldwinsville early in the forties and when the village charter was granted in 1848 the south side became legally a part of Baldwinsville. In the organization of the first village administration under the charter the present First Ward was represented by Leroy Morgan, first president of the village; Irvin Williams, one of the first board of trustees, and E. B. Wigent, the first village clerk.

Reference has been made to the early saw-mills of the south side. They were built in 1825 by Stephen W. Baldwin and were managed by James Johnson under an agreement dated the same year. Before the year had closed Baldwin had transferred a two-thirds interest to his brother, Horace Baldwin, and the other third to Johnson, who increased his interest to one-half a few months later. When Johnson went under in 1831 his mill interest was purchased by Reuben C. Smith who held it until he sold to Sanford C. Parker in 1835. Horace Baldwin's half-interest had meanwhile been held by him and in 1836 passed back to Stephen W. Baldwin who sold it to Parker, the latter thus becoming sole owner. It was at this time that Parker built the stone mill close by the saw-mill property. The importance of the saw-mill diminished as timber became scarcer in the vicinity and the mill building, which had grown to be merely an old shell was finally torn down about 1856.

Baldwin's south-side grist-mill, built about 1827, was on the site of the present Clark & Mercer mill. John McHarie bought a half-interest in the mill in 1829 for \$791 and the property continued in the joint possession of Baldwin and McHarie while they lived. A succession of millers had the management of the mill during their ownership. Andrew Brown, who came to the town about 1834, leased it for a time and after him Tompkins Bolles is said to have run it. In 1838 James Williams bought from the Baldwin estate its half-interest. He ran the mill himself in the forties and gave it the name of the "Farmers' Mill of Van Buren" by which it was long known. In 1848 it was leased to J. J. Glass and Irvin Williams, and in 1850 its management passed to James Frazee and William B. Preston. James Williams secured full control of the mill in 1851 by buying the McHarie interest, and again assumed its management. The mill has had a number of different owners during the last forty years.

The old south-side distillery was built about 1856 by the firm of Johnson, Cook & Co., who at the same time bought the old Parker mill. It was on the site of Parker's old saw-mills. The stone mill was run in connection with the distillery. The mill burned in 1861, but was re-built. The distillery was flourishing during the war, but about 1866 or '67 it was closed and given up. A paper-mill was started in its place, while the stone mill was continued independently.

SCHOOLS AND ROADS—NOTES ON THE LOCAL SCHOOL AND ROAD SYSTEMS.

No detailed sketch of the history of any town is complete without some reference to its schools and its roads, for they are alike interesting to a student of local history because closely connected with the growth of the community. The necessity of managing

them efficiently has brought into existence the smallest units of the American system of civil government, the school-district and the road district.

In New York State the common school system dates practically from 1812, although state law had provided for assistance to schools long before that. In the land grant period military lots were reserved for school purposes, and after 1795 school-district organizations were provided for by law. Yet, during all this time the schools, like the railroads of today, held the status of private enterprises, just important enough to the community to deserve some share of public help. On June 19, 1812, a law was passed that put the school district system in force in every town of the state. From this time it became essentially a part of the state civil organization. The schools of each town were placed under the oversight of three town commissioners, assisted by three inspectors, and it was anticipated that with so many officers excellent results would be obtained.

In the old town of Camillus the first school commissioners were Squire Munro, Linus Squire and Isaac Magoon. They divided the town into school districts in accordance with the legislative act and filed their report with the town clerk on September 4, 1813. Seventeen districts were created and seven of these were either wholly or partly in the present Town of Van Buren. They were described in the commission's report as follows:

District No. 8, by Mr. Parish, comprehends the inhabitants on Lots 14, 15, 22, 23, 29, 42, 43, the north part of Lot No. 44, the northeast part of Lot 55 to the Beavermeadow Brook and a part of Lot 41 including Elihu Peck.

District No. 9, by Lieut. Warner's, comprehends the inhabitants on Lots 27, 39, 40, east on Lot No. 41 to include Capt. Peck's, south on Lot No. 53 as far as the swamp, the east parts of Lots 26 and 38 and fifty acres off the southeast corner of Lot No. 19.

District No. 10, by Capt. Robinson's, comprehends the inhabitants on Lots 13, 20, 21, 28, and the east half of Lot No. 12.

District No. 11, by Mr. Barnes', comprehends the inhabitants on Lots 25, 37, 24, 35, 18, the west half of Lots 26 and 38, the south third of Lot No. 19,

except fifty acres lying in the southeast corner of said lot, the north half of Lot No. 51 and the farms of Elijah Lunsday and Richard McLaughry on Lot No. 50.

District No. 14, by Capt. Tappen's, comprehends the inhabitants on Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, the west half of Lot No. 12, the east half of Lot No. 10 and two-thirds of Lot No. 19 on the north.

District No. 15, on Lot No. 8, comprehends the inhabitants on Lots 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 16, 17, and the west half of Lot No. 10.

District No. 17, by Mr. Springsted's, comprehends the inhabitants on Lot 66 and western 550 acres on Lot 54, that part of Lot 79 north of the cedar swamp and part of Lot 41 to include Mr. Beckworth, John Lamerson and Capt. Sears' farms.

The first school-house in the town of Van Buren is said to have been built at Ionia. It was probably that put up for District No. 11 in 1813. The school-houses of the other districts must have been put up soon afterward, however. On Lot 39, at the northeast corner of the junction of the roads, the school-house of District No. 9 was built, and the land on which it stood was formerly deeded to the district by Henry Warner on January 1, 1814, for a consideration of \$5. A little further east, on Lot 21, John Woodworth deeded land on which the house for District No. 10 was located. Still further east, at Van Buren corners on Lot 22, was the house of District No. 8. In the western part of the town was District No. 15, with a school-house on Lot No. 8, and in the northern part was District No. 14, the site of whose school-house is uncertain. All of these early school-houses were roughly built of logs and were used for school purposes for years after the log-cabin began to go out of use as a dwelling place. None are now in existence in the town.

In 1815 the creation of new districts began and changes in the boundaries took place almost every year for a time. New districts brought new school-houses and all portions of the town took their share in the growth of the local system. Probably not every one of the new districts had a school-house of its own. In earlier years school was often held in an extra room in some of the larger houses

of a district, more especially where the number of children in the district was small. The first school-teacher in the town is said to be Augustus Robinson, a person whose identity seems to be uncertain. The greater part of the teachers of that day, as at present, were young men or women who had studied at the academies and had proven acceptable as disciplinarians. Many of the prominent citizens of a later day began their life work as teachers in the country schools. The school-districts in Van Buren had increased to nineteen in 1830, just after the town was set off from Camillus, and were then re-numbered. The census of 1835 reported 18 districts and a school-age population of 947 children, of which 96 per cent. was enrolled. Today the town has 16 districts, wholly or partly within its limits, 15 school-houses and about 650 children enrolled.

The original plan of managing the schools of each town by the commissioners and inspectors proved too cumbersome. The responsibility was divided and the system was inefficient. There was no state department of public instruction at that time to oversee the schools with authority. In 1843, therefore, a sweeping change was made. The six town officers were abolished and in their stead one town superintendent was created in each town to do the work and to keep in touch with Albany through a county superintendent. This plan was a great improvement and lasted to 1856, when the school system was practically divorced from town control by the adoption of the present district commissioner system.

No regularly incorporated academies have existed in the town. Lot 15, which was especially reserved for school purposes in 1790, was early granted by the legislature to the Pompey Academy corporation. Private schools took the place in former years of the present academic system and were popularly known under the titles of academies or seminaries. Such a

school was carried on for many years in Baldwinsville on the south side of the river. The creation of the public academy in Baldwinsville dates from the erection of the Baldwinsville Union Free School District in 1864 into which was merged the old District No. 18 of the Town of Van Buren.

Unfortunately for the roads of New York State there has been no development in their administration such as has brought the school system into a well organized and well directed whole from much the same beginnings. Our roads are still built and cared for on very much the same plan that prevailed when the pioneers of Central New York first began road work. The Town of Van Buren has no especial cause for either pride or shame on account of its roads. Its highways are, if anything, somewhat above the average of country roads in excellence.

When the first settlers came into the town they found an Indian path leading through the Dead Creek valley, while all else was wilderness. The first travelled highways of the town were mere forest paths leading from cabin to cabin and marked by blazed trees. The use of the carriage or wagon was unknown for many years after settlement began. Men and women rode on horseback and the pack-horse carried portable property. Along these forest paths the settlers found their way from one part of the town to another, and the route of some of these early highways can yet be pointed out by the older residents.

The systematic laying out of regular highways began early in the century as settlement advanced. The state ordered the survey of the old state road to Oswego in 1804, and it is probable that this was the first regular highway in the town. Within a few years afterward the early deed records begin to make references to other roads and show that the southern part of the town had become fairly well covered by regular roads.

The old state road mentioned above is the well-known highway crossing the eastern part of the town from Baldwinsville to Belle Isle. In the early portion of this century there was a popular demand for state roads. Rapid growth of population in the central and western counties made necessary the laying out of public highways on a scale that could only be successfully carried out by the state itself. Every successive legislature provided for roads, some of them hundreds of miles long, crossing the sparsely settled territory from settlement to settlement. It was a wise policy on the part of the state that found its reward in the rapid development of the western counties. The old road in Van Buren was one of these. Its survey was ordered by an act passed April 4, 1804. The commission named in the act to oversee its survey was Moses Carpenter, of Camillus; Medad Curtis, of Onondaga, and Asa Rice, of Lysander, and for their work they were each granted the sum of \$2.50 a day. The road was required to be six rods wide and the route specified was simply "from the court-house in the county of Onondaga to Ox Creek near where it empties into the Oswego river and from thence to the village of Oswego." It is hardly likely that there had been any travelled path along the route that the new road took. It is a local tradition that the surveying party, instead of regarding the face of the country in choosing the route, laid it out from cabin to cabin at their own convenience, the chief feature of their plan being that they should be able to reach a settler's home at each consecutive meal time. Probably the story is unjust to the old commission, for the old road was certainly a fairly straight and well laid out thoroughfare between the two points where it began and ended. It hastened the settlement of eastern Van Buren and was an important factor in the growth of the McFarie-Baldwin settlement. In the war of 1812 it suddenly assumed an important

position as an available highway for the movement of troops and was probably used as such. After 1817, and possibly before that, it was a post-route. The old Camillus road record shows that the portion south of the Seneca river was re-surveyed in 1814. Portions of the old road were re-surveyed in 1830 and in later years. While alterations have changed the route somewhat from its early location the remains of the original road may usually be recognized today by a width unusual in modern country roads.

Another state road exists in the town, but the lapse of years has brought about an abandonment of its title and the oldest inhabitant would not recognize it under that name. It is the road running eastward from Ionia toward Warners and westward past the old Amos Warner homestead toward the river. On March 29, 1811, the state legislature ordered the laying out of a highway "from the bridge over Sodus Bay, on the most direct and eligible route, to the new bridge over the Seneca River at Adams' ferry and from thence, on the most direct and eligible route, to the house of Gideon Brockway in the town and county of Onondaga." The bridge over the Seneca mentioned was Snow's bridge, which spanned the river from the town of Lysander to Lot 9 on the Van Buren side. The commission appointed to take the work in charge was Reuben Humphreys, of Onondaga; Joseph White, of Camillus, and Philetus Swift, of Ontario county. Work seems not to have been begun at once, for a year later, on June 18, 1812, the act was amended by a change in the northern terminus of the road and the substitution of Ira Hopkins, of Cayuga county, on the commission in place of Humphreys, deceased. The actual survey seems to have been done in 1813. The effect of this road was to bring through the town an enormous amount of travel from Lysander and the towns further west. It made centers of settlement at Ionia, Warners, and Van

Buren and built up the southwest part of the town. Its importance as a trunk-road waned, however, when the Erie canal was put through in 1820, and ten years later the abandonment of the bridge over the Seneca ended its importance so far as it concerned the Town of Van Buren.

The old road records of Camillus show that the surveyors who laid out the early roads of Van Buren were mostly resident in the southern part of the old town. Jonathan Wood is the first whose name appears on record signed to numerous surveys of 1813. Joseph White also made a few surveys in that year. Elijah White followed these. He began road work in 1814, laying out highways in the eastern and central part of the present town, while Wood was working in the western part. It was Elijah White who re-surveyed the state road in 1814 from the Onondaga line to Baldwin's bridge. He afterward became a highway commissioner of the town. Squire Munro made some surveys in the town from 1815 to 1819, but the most of his work was done further south. Augustus Harris, a resident of the town, began work in 1818 and was a prominent surveyor for many years after the separation of Van Buren from Camillus. Other surveyors whose names occur before 1829 are James McClure, James Ransom and Daniel Reed. George W. Robinson's name occurs as early as 1826 and is common thereafter. Asa Baker is another who appears on the records about 1829. In later years came Philip Drake in 1842 and Hiram Bowman in 1845 and also David Carroll, whose death is a recent occurrence.

After the first beginnings of the town road system it advanced rapidly. The old Camillus road record began on March 30, 1814, and from that date the highway development can be easily traced. About the year 1820 the growth of the salt-boiling industry at Syracuse brought a demand for wood that gave a ready market to the timber owners

along the Seneca river. Regular highways were then existent leading down to the numerous boat-landings along the river where wood was placed awaiting shipment. In later years these roads to the river bank have been abandoned. Constant change in roads has been the rule, indeed, until very recent years. Few of the roads now exist as originally laid out. Sometimes in the past the laying out of new roads or the discontinuing of others brought protest from those affected. One such case occurred in 1838 and takes up much space upon the town records. G. W. Bowen petitioned for the discontinuance of a road in the western part of the town and a jury of twelve freeholders approved his request, the jury consisting of Belding Ressiguie, Gabriel Tappen, Justus Weaver, Ezra Weaver, Asher T. Marvin, James Williams, Denison Marvin, Arza Sears, Augustus Smith, Stephen H. Safford, Amos Hall and Russell Saxton. Nicholas Vedder, across whose land the road extended, protested against the action and the three judges of the county court, headed by Grove Lawrence, were called to the spot to decide the matter. Their decision was in the nature of a compromise that doubtless satisfied all parties.

The plan of keeping country roads in repair through the supervision of overseers or "pathmasters" is a very old one, dating back more than a century. Formerly the road overseers were chosen at town-meeting by informal caucus of the voters in the several road-districts and were subject to three commissioners of highways, elected annually at town-meeting. When the Town of Van Buren was laid off in 1829 it contained thirty-three road districts and the following were the first road overseers of the town:

- 1—Elnathan McLaughlin.
- 2—Josiah Hodges.
- 3—Calvin Ford.
- 4—Peter H. Rogers.
- 5—Daniel Betts.
- 6—Russell Foster.

- 7—Justin S. Cornell.
- 8—David Scovill.
- 9—Darius Hunt.
- 10—George Marvin.
- 11—Philander W. Olcott.
- 12—Origen B. Herrick.
- 13—Benoni E. Danks.
- 14—Jabez Grippen.
- 15—William McLane.
- 16—Abel Weaver.
- 17—Oliver Nichols.
- 18—Ralph Russ.
- 19—Warren Russell.
- 20—Browning Nichols.
- 21—Phineas Barnes.
- 22—James Paddock.
- 23—George Hawley.
- 24—John H. Lamerson.
- 25—Joel S. Barnes.
- 26—Edmund Holcomb.
- 27—Peter McQueen.
- 28—William Jones.
- 29—John Griswold.
- 30—Jerome Sweet.
- 31—Amos Warner.
- 32—David D. Prouty.
- 33—Nathaniel S. Hungerford.

The three-commissioner system, on account of its frequent changes, was found unsatisfactory, just as it had been in school matters. In 1846 the term of each commissioner was made three years, one being elected annually. In 1856 the number of commissioners was reduced to one, annually elected. It remains to be seen whether further changes will take place on the line of those in school matters.

THE FORMATIVE PERIOD—GENERAL HISTORY OF THE TOWN FROM 1801 TO 1829.

The period of growth from scattered cabins to a complete community is always an interesting one with whatever section of country one may be concerned. The formative period of Van Buren begins in 1801, when immigration began to assume a lively phase, and lasts until 1829, when the town

was created. Settlement in the town had, indeed, begun as early as 1792, but it had been very slow and when the century closed there were probably hardly a dozen families located in the region. With the new century's advent, the fast swelling tide of immigration that was spreading over all northern Onondaga took Van Buren in its scope and dotted its hills with new-built cabins and cleared fields. Onondaga County was at this time just emerging from the frontier condition. Onondaga Valley was its early county seat until 1805, when Onondaga Hill became the principal village of the county. New towns were being formed from time to time and the population was growing at an enormous rate in all parts of its territory. The settlers who poured into Van Buren with this wave of settlement were mostly of the sturdy New England stock that has always been at the front of settlement in the American republic. Many came to Van Buren direct from New England, while others came from the Yankee towns of the Hudson valley or the Otsego hills. In more than one case settlers came from the older settlements of Pompey, but a few miles away. Intermingled with the Yankee stock were descendants of Dutchmen from the Mohawk or the Hudson and a sprinkling of that vigorous Scotch-Irish element that has done so much for the American people in the past. Not a few of the pioneers of Van Buren were revolutionary veterans. Among the names of these we find John McHarrie, John Tappen, William Lakin, John Ingallsbee, John Britton, David Cornell, Phineas Meigs, John Clark, Sherebiah Evans, Atehison Mellin, John Cunningham, Calvin Waterman, Ebenezer Morley, Douw Smith and others. They had fought on many fields, and now in advanced years they sought the wilderness to build new homes.

During the first few years of the century the development of the town was uneventful. The immigration gained

strength, and as the new settlers came in many of the non-resident lot owners had their property surveyed and began to contract with the new citizens for its sale. James Geddes surveyed Lot 25 as early as 1803 and Lot 21 in 1807. Others of the early surveyors were Ephraim Hammond, Dorastus Blanchard, Spencer Smith, Asa Baker, George W. Robinson and Augustus Harris. By virtue of his knowledge the early surveyor was often an important person of the frontier community.

The rapid settling up of the town is indicated by the state census of 1807, which gives nearly forty names of Van Buren people who owned or occupied freeholds and were entitled to vote under the laws of that day. Yet the development of the town had hardly begun. It was yet isolated from the main highways of travel and there was no trade within its limits. About 1807 a new era was opened by the laying out of the Oswego state road and the building of the Baldwin bridge at the McHarrie Rift. This avenue of trade did something for the town and when in 1813 the new state road through the southwestern part of the town was laid out there was yet more rapid development.

The bridging of the Seneca at the western end of the town was a consequence of the laying out of the second state road. As early as 1811 there had been a ferry crossing the river at the north line of Lot 16 which was run by a man named Adams, probably Dr. Charlora Adams, of the town of Lysander, who owned the land directly opposite. About 1813, when the state road was laid out, crossing the river at the point, Elijah Snow, of Lysander, built a low wooden bridge that was used for many years and is often referred to in early records as "Snow's bridge."

About this time the principal stream of the town began to be called by its present name of Dead Creek. The building of the Baldwin dam in the Seneca some years before had backed

the water of the river, overflowing the low land at the mouth of the creek and stagnating its waters for the greater part of its length. To this condition is generally ascribed the origin of the creek's peculiar name and the derivation is probably right. The first use of the name that occurs in the records is in a will dated April, 1814. Mud Creek seems also to have been an early name for the stream.

The domestic life of these times was by necessity of the simplest. Few of the settlers were well off in worldly goods and their isolated life left them little beyond the bare round of daily existence. The first frame house of the town had been built in 1808 and others followed, but the greater part of the people lived in the primitive log-cabins which were common up to about forty years ago, and which have not yet entirely disappeared. In these small cabins which seldom contained more than two or, at the most, three separate rooms, large families were reared and whole lives spent. With simple wants there yet appears to have been no great amount of leisure in these olden times. The men of the family spent day after day and season after season in clearing their land of forest and tilling it into fertile farm soil, raising flocks of sheep and making needed improvements. The women cooked and wove and spun and knit, gathered herbs and nuts and fruit for winter, and, in spite of all, raised families of six, eight or ten children to take up the work of improvement where the parents left off. Clothing was made entirely by home industry then. The wool from the sheep of the farm was cleaned, carded, spun and woven into cloth which was then fulled, dyed, cut and sewn into homespun garments, cut according to the artistic taste of the housewife. Home grown flax was also turned into cloth for the family. The virtues of herbs was a part of the lore of every house-keeper in days when doctors were few.

and it certainly does not seem that communities suffered much from lack of physicians' presence. Corn was the great staple of agriculture. Not only did it supply material for the family bread chest, but it also furnished the pioneer farmer with what was then considered one of the necessities of life, old-time whiskey, strong and pure.

The quiet of the growing region was rudely disturbed in 1814 by the spectre of war. Hostilities had begun between the United States and Great Britain in 1812, but had caused little uneasiness to the interior of the country. The American government had garrisoned Sacketts Harbor with troops and had made Oswego a fortified post of some importance, but these posts had not been threatened seriously. In the winter of 1813-14 the Americans took the initiative in carrying the struggle upon the lakes, and began preparations for trouble. A large quantity of naval equipments and ammunition was brought from Albany through Wood creek and Oneida lake to near the present site of Fulton village, where it was stored for future use. The presence of these stores became known to the British and an attack on Oswego was planned, with the further intention of marching up the river and capturing the stores. The old Oswego fort had at this time a garrison of 300 men, much too small for adequate defence, and the arrival of the British fleet before the harbor was the signal for the summoning of the militia to the rescue. Onondaga County responded to the alarm. Among the companies of citizen soldiers which hastened to Oswego were those of Gabriel Tappen and Stephen Tappen from the town of Van Buren. There is little known of the details of this short campaign. The militia reached the scene of trouble, but had little to do. On May 6, 1814, the British forces captured the fort, but they did not attempt to force a way to the military stores at Fulton. After dismantling the fort they retired

to their ships. The militia was then sent home again.

A most important feature of country life in the early part of the century was the militia organization which on very rare occasions sprang into momentary importance. It was a legacy of revolutionary times, when the freemen of every town were organized under state authority to spring to arms at a possible invasion of British red-coats. In times of peace the militia became a very picturesque but scarcely useful part of the state government system. Its organization covered the whole state and every adult male not physically impaired was obliged to attend general training at least once a year for the alleged purpose of obtaining instruction in military science. The instruction thus received, as may be supposed, was not especially valuable, but the general trainings became a feature of country life looked forward to with keenest zest by young and old. They were holiday celebrations to which gathered the whole countryside. The commissioned officers of the regiments were appointed from Albany and as the higher ranks of the militia were often stepping stones to political preferment the foremost men of the community were glad to accept commissions.

The little that can be said about the militia organization of Van Buren comes from some papers published by P. H. Agan, of Syracuse, several years ago. From these it is learned that as early as 1798 the old town of Camillus was a part of the territory covered by the Third Regiment in the Onondaga County Brigade. As the present town of Van Buren was settled the names of its residents begin to appear on the roll of militia officers. Before 1809 Isaac Lindsay was a captain, Seth Warner and Gabriel Tappen lieutenants, and Isaac Earl a paymaster in the regiment. In 1809 a battalion of three companies was set off from the rest of the regiment, covering the towns of

Camillus, Lysander and Hannibal and having among its officers Quartermaster Abraham Rogers, Captain Gabriel Tappen, Lieutenant Seth Warner and Ensign Ira Barnes. In 1812 the militia throughout the state were numbered and the Van Buren section was a part of the 16th regiment. The 172nd regiment, created in 1816, was a Lysander regiment, and Stephen Tappen, then resident in Lysander, was its lieutenant-colonel in 1816 and its colonel in 1818. Changes among the officers of the old militia regiments were not infrequent and the list of Van Buren men who held military rank from 1809 to 1821 is of goodly length. The most of these are included in the following list:

Colonels—Gabriel Tappen, 1816; Stephen Tappen, 1818.

Lieutenant-Colonel—Stephen Tappen, 1816.

Major—Charles H. Toll, 1820.

Regimental staff—Abraham Rogers, quartermaster in 1809; Charles H. Toll, quartermaster in 1816, adjutant in 1819; John McHarrie, paymaster in 1819; U. H. Dunning, surgeon in 1820.

Captains—Gabriel Tappen, 1809; Stephen Tappen, 1811; Henry B. Turner, 1812; David Parish, 1814; Seth Warner, 1816; John L. Cooper, Henry Warner, Levi Paddock, 1818; John Inglesbee, Richard Lusk, 1819; Delanson Foster, 1820.

Lieutenants—Seth Warner, Gabriel Tappen, 1806; David Parish, 1812; Josiah Parish, Jr., Stephen Shead, 1814; Ira Barnes, John L. Cooper, 1816; James Wells, John Inglesbee, Richard Lusk, Jost C. Finck, 1818, Delanson Foster, 1819; Phineas Meigs, 1820; C. H. Kingsley, 1821.

Ensigns—Ira Barnes, 1809; Henry Warner, James Wells, 1816; Delanson Foster, James Rogers, Daniel Cornell, 1818; Phineas Meigs, Stephen Britton, 1819; Abram H. Hamblin, John Lakin, 1821.

No militia records later than 1821 are at present accessible. Col. Thaddeus Haynes, Col. Belding Ressiguie and

others reached their rank at a later day than those above named.

As late as 1815 the town was hardly out of the frontier stage of growth. A justice court had been established only three years before. School districts had been formed and school-houses built and a powerful factor of social improvement thus introduced. The first church society had come into existence. A village was growing up, too, at Ionia corners, with a tavern which served as a stopping place for passing trade. Yet, after all, the town was to a great extent a wilderness. The great forests still covered large parts of the region and in their depths still lurked the bear and panther, while prowling wolves made havoc in the settlers' flocks. Sometimes the wolves invaded the very sheep-folds where the flocks were penned at night, until the settlers, taught by experience, built high enclosures over which the creatures could not leap. In the early records of the board of supervisors are many entries of bounties paid out for wolf scalps by the county legislators. Ten dollars for each scalp was the sum paid then. In 1814 Benoni Sherman is upon the list and is followed in 1815 by Jonathan Howe, in 1816 by David Cornell, William Lindsay, Benjamin Weaver, John Paddock, Hiram Nichols, and in 1817 by Isaac Lindsay, all of these being probably Van Buren men. Not only wolves but other game was hunted. In 1816 Abel Weaver and William Lakin were awarded a bounty for killing wild cats. A longer list of early citizens is on the record as fox hunters. Among the number are Ethan Daniels, Warren W. Marvin, Almon Peck, Jonathan Howe, Chester Morley, Ira Barnes, Amasa Franklin, Isaac Peck, Jacob Spores, Benoni Sherman, Philo Peck, Elihu Peck, Robert Wilson.

The Indians were a familiar figure in the town as long as there was game to be hunted. The treaty of 1788 had expressly granted them the right to hunt

and fish anywhere in their old territory and their olden hunting-ground was a favorite place of resort. They usually came up through the Dead Creek valley and established their hunting and fishing camps in the neighborhood of the Seneca river. A well-known camping place was at Wright's woods on Lot 5. As the town became thickly settled and larger game disappeared the visits of the Indians became more infrequent. There was little, if any, hunting done after 1820, but until that time the Indian parties came through often and the red men and white men often fraternized in expeditions after game. In this connection is preserved the curious story of the Indians' lead mine.

An old Indian discovered one day, so the story runs, that his white friends of the Dead Creek valley had exhausted their stock of lead and were at a loss for bullets. Lead was needed badly, but none was at hand. The Indian was sympathetic and thoughtful. After a time he quietly said, "I get you some," and a short time afterward could not be found. Little was thought of either words or action until several hours later when the settlers were astonished to see him stalk in with a quantity of what appeared to be lead ore of the finest sort. It was melted, moulded and used. The incident made some little stir, tradition says, for the prospect of a lead mine near by gave a hint of wealth to the lucky finder. The Indian was questioned, coaxed and bribed, but no hint would he give of the place whence the metal came. His companions were either ignorant or equally secretive. Nothing could be learned. He was importuned to repeat his trip and did so more than once, always returning with metal. Efforts were made to follow him without his knowledge, but his trackers always lost the trail. The mystery was never solved. This story of the lead mine was well known in western Van Buren. The earlier residents used to believe that the hidden

mine was somewhere along the hill-sides of the valley and many a prospecting tour was made in search of it within the memory of men yet living.

Indians, wolves and other scenic incidentals of the frontier passed out of the town history when the elements of modern life came in. Ionia grew and prospered. Skeels and Paddock put up their saw-mill at Bangall and began to turn out rough boards for local use. Along the river at the north settlers began to find a market for their surplus timber by shipping it to Salt Point for fuel in the salt blocks. Times of trial came, however, in 1816, when, in the famous cold season, the crops failed and families found themselves almost without food. At the grist-mill in the Oswego Bitter corn was received from the more fortunate and after being ground was given out in small amounts to the poorer families to keep them from starvation. This experience was only an incident, however, in the march of progress. Growth continued. The Ionia postoffice was created in 1816, or a little later, with a mail-route on the state road, and in 1817 the new postoffice at Baldwinsville placed another mail-route on the eastern state road. Once a week the post-rider came through with the mail, usually on horseback, or sometimes with a light sulky. The postoffice brought the outside world yet nearer to the settlers.

The bringing of the supervisorship of the old town of Camillus into the Van Buren region in 1818 marks the growing importance of the present town. The old town of Camillus was at this time quite an important member of the county group. It had a large population and the best of prospects. Elbridge was its principal village and Ionia and Camillus were secondary centers. In later years Canton rivalled Elbridge in importance. As early as 1814 the town clerk's office came northward to the present Van Buren, the incumbent at the time being Linus Squire. Squire was early in the cen-

tury the Elbridge school-master, but he bought a farm in Van Buren and removed to it. From 1814 until 1829, except for one year, the town clerk's office remained in Van Buren. Linus Squire, after serving several years as town clerk, was chosen supervisor in 1818, and for the first the northern part of the old town was thus represented in the town government. Squire was twice re-elected as supervisor. His successors in the town clerkship were Charles H. Toll, 1818-1820, 1822-1824, Linus Squire, 1825, David C. Lytle, 1826-1827, Abel Lyon, 1828-1829. Lyon held the office when the old town of Camillus was split up and he was elected the first town clerk of Van Buren.

With the year 1819 begins a distinct period in the history of not only the town but of the county as well. The middle section of the Erie canal was completed and changes which were of vast importance began to take place. The traffic over the state roads had influenced the inner life of Van Buren to a great extent. The settlements which had started at Ionia, Warner and Van Buren were due to its activity. As an accompaniment to this awakening of local life, mills were being built, schools extended and church societies formed. With the coming of the canal the importance of the state roads passed away, and to a certain extent the little centers of population along the state roads felt the depression. Another effect of the canal was the blow that it gave to the traffic along the Seneca river. The old water-route through Oneida lake and Wood creek was now given up since the direct water-way that led from Lake Erie to Albany made the old route worthless. While the canal thus centered in itself the trade that had previously spread itself over the roads and the river it gave remarkable growth to the canal villages that sprang up along its banks and the state road centers were left with shattered dreams of future great-

ness. In Van Buren the new village of Canton drew to itself all the trade of the town.

While river commerce with Albany was killed by the new canal the local cordwood trade with Salina village continued. The town was not yet cleared of its dense woods and the settlers spent year after year chopping and clearing off their acres. Prowess in tree-felling was one of the boasts of the early settler, and he who could cut down the greatest number of trees in a given time was a hero to whom his fellows paid all due deference. The saw-mill at Bangall was a busy center in early years and the Pine Hill region became a famous place for lumbering. On Lot 16 in the western part of the town was timber of excellent growth in early years and as the lot belonged to non-residents the wood became a matter of covetous interest to many. Midnight raids used to be made, it is said, in this section. Spies were posted to give alarm if necessary and night after night the work of felling trees and dragging away logs continued.

From 1821 to 1829 the history of the town is merely one of continued development, but with no great events to break the even current of existence. Until the year 1821 slavery existed in the state of New York and was in that year abolished. There seems never to have been a bondsman held in the town of Van Buren, however, and this early abolition law is without local significance. The daily life of the pioneers had by this time less of the isolation that had prevailed in earlier years. The influence of district schools and churches was a potent one. District school libraries began to be established and were a welcome innovation. Another social influence is suggested by the institution of a Masonic lodge at Baldwinville in 1822, among whose early members were Philip Sharp, John Herrick, Stephen Y. Barns, James Wells, Atchison Mellin and other Van Buren men. Wells was the first junior war-

den of old Pleiades lodge. The hamlet of Macksville began to reach importance in the twenties. About 1825 Baldwin and his fellow capitalists commenced mill building on the south side of the Seneca river and gave an impetus to the growth of the south-side hamlet. Not until the forties, however, did Macksville become a formidable rival to Canton.

The politics of these times deserves a word. The Van Buren portion of the old town of Camillus had its share in the distribution of town offices, as has been said, but never, until it became a town by itself, was Van Buren granted an assemblyman or a county officer. None the less interest, however, seems to have been taken in politics by its citizens. When the century opened the political arena in New York state held the two opposing parties of the Federalists and Republicans. The former grew weakened in time and its existence in Onondaga county ended with the disbandment of its county organization in 1817. In place of the old contestants now arose the warring factions of the Clintonians and Bucktails, both claiming to be of the Republican party, but waging bitter war on each other. The death of Dewitt Clinton in 1828 deprived the Clintonian faction of its leader, and a re-adjustment of party lines took place through the state. The old Republican party name was about this time displaced by the more familiar name of Democratic party. It was not a united party, as yet, by any means, for old struggles were continued by its factions under new rallying cries. "Adams" men fought "Jackson" men until their respective factions were gradually absorbed under the pressure of new issues. There is very little that can be said of the local bearings of these struggles. The party organizations, though not as complete and staple as they are in the present time, had much the same scope of work and extended into every town. Town caucuses were often held at Ionia and

Canton for the old town of Camillus, and Van Buren men occasionally appear among the delegates sent to county conventions.

The Anti-Masonic excitement, which started in the western part of the state, soon extended to Onondaga County, and the Anti-Masonic party was organized in the town of Camillus in January, 1828. In that year the party polled 592 votes in the county. Following is the report of the organization as published at the time:

"At a meeting of the inhabitants of Camillus friendly to the Anti-Mason cause, Jonathan Skinner was chosen chairman and Charles H. Toll secretary.

"Voted, That a committee be appointed to draft resolutions to present the sense of said meeting, and that Lewis Squire, Leonard Caton, Lorenzo Hunt, Lewis Keedle and DeLanson Foster compose such committee.

"Levi Paddock was appointed delegate to attend county convention and Lorenzo Hunt, Asa Bingham, C. H. Toll, corresponding committee."

The history of Van Buren as a separate town begins in 1829 when it was separated from the old town of Camillus. The year is an important one in the history of the county, for it marks the removal of the county seat from Onondaga Hill to the growing canal village of Syracuse, and the consequent beginning of a new period of development in the county. After 1829 Van Buren was fairly out of its pioneer period. Its later history belongs to another chapter.

VAN BUREN INDUSTRIES—THE SHOPS AND MILLS THAT HAVE FLOURISHED IN THE PAST.

In the story of the development of a community no small share of credit should be given to the men who have done their work in its growth by founding and carrying on the varied branch-

es of industrial life. The town that has grown up around the sites of the pioneers' cabins would hardly have become the community that it has today, had not the mill-builder and the handicraftsman followed close upon the pioneer and supplied the lacking features of a self-reliant society. In these modern times when merchandise of every sort is unloaded at our doors by daily passing trains, it is almost impossible to realize the necessity for mechanical labor that was felt by a young community. The miller, sawyer, fuller, tanner and potter had work to do then, which now is done by immense factories miles away. Hardly less important were the petty craftsmen, the shoemaker, hatter, blacksmith, cooper and tinsmith. These men were seldom large land-owners and this fact accounts for the scant mention they receive in the records. In the early times social status was to a large extent a matter of acres, as it is today in a purely rural region, and the mechanic was not a prominent feature in the social organization of the time. Yet the names that are here mentioned as being identified with the early shops and mills of Van Buren will be recognized as those of men who occupied no unimportant place in their time.

Saw-mills and grist-mills were the first necessities of a new country in an industrial way and the saw-mill was generally the first to be built. Throughout the whole extent of the Onondaga country the hills and valleys were covered with vast forests. At first the settler built his cabin of rough-hewn logs and as he cleared his land burned the felled timber to get it out the way. As settlement progressed the sawyer appeared and began to turn out from his mill sawed timbers and rough boards. Then the log cabins began to pass away and the frame house to appear. In later years improved waterways and state roads opened the way to export and gave a commercial value.

In the town of Van Buren a saw-mill first appears in the records in 1815, though it may have been built much earlier. Nathan Skeels and Solomon Paddock are said to have been the builders of this pioneer mill. Water power in the town was not of the best, but available sites could be found and those nearest to the Ionia settlement were naturally the ones first used. The old Skeels mill was built on Lot 18 by the little brook that has furnished power to half a score of mills and shops from that time to the present. In 1816 a road was surveyed to the mill from the nearest highway. The old mill seems not to have stood very long, for it was succeeded about 1822 by the Elsworth mill. Little is known of Paddock or Skeels. The saw-mills of early times were little more than rough sheds enclosing the clumsy machines with which the work was done. In the earlier mills the saw was a broad blade set upright in a stout frame that, by a crank-like arrangement, was kept slowly moving up and down while the log was held against it by a movable carriage. Later the heavy saw-frame was replaced by a lighter device and finally the circular saw was adopted.

Next after the Skeels mill came the old Elsworth mill, also located on Lot 18, but a little further down the creek. It was built about 1822 by Reuben, Levi and Daniel Elsworth. Reuben Elsworth died about 1827, and his son-in-law, Horace Rewey, took the mill and ran it for several years more, Ira Barnes being also interested. The Rewey mill-dam was an object of complaint in the vicinity on account of ill-health which was attributed to the pond, and about 1833 Ira Barnes built another mill on the old Paddock site, while the Rewey mill was abandoned. In later years George Wood rebuilt the Barnes mill and it was run in succession by Wood, by Jonathan Warner, Simon Warner and Warren Ingoldsby. The mill brook still gives motive power to a circular saw at times.

Saw-mills sprung up in other parts of the town very soon after the Paddock mill set the example at Bangall. An early mill was built by John McHarie and Gabriel Tappen on Lot 7, outside the present corporation line. It was located on Crooked brook and the old mill-dam can yet be seen. It was run by Albert G. Wells while it belonged to the McHarie estate, but the dam broke about 1845 and the mill was abandoned. A few years later it was rebuilt and run by the Smiths for a time and was then abandoned again. Further up the creek, on Lot 13, was built a mill about 1824 by Hiram H. and James A. Scoville. It passed to Charles Turner in 1826 and was later owned by one Healey, by Peter Barber, John Hall and finally by Augustus and Maynard Smith, its latest owners. Farther south yet, on Lot 21, Joseph Hopkins built a mill in early years and ran it until timber failed. It was given up along in the fifties.

On Lot 39 Isaac Bentley built a saw-mill about 1844 and it was run successively by the Bentleys, Weavers and others until recently. A saw mill also existed on Lot 23, about fifty years ago, but has now passed away.

At Baldwinsville was built about 1825 a saw-mill near the dam on the south side by James Johnson, of Salina. It was run by different owners until the fifties.

West of Dead creek was located the old Vader mill on Lot 3. It was built about 1825 by Isaac Hill, the Canton merchant, who, when his dam broke before the end of the first year, sold it to Nicholas Vader. It was run successfully by Nicholas Vader and his son, John, for several years, first for themselves, then for Col. James Voorhees and George W. Bowen, who successively owned it. Russell D. Bentley bought out Bowen and the mill was run for him by Seth Betts and John Vader. Next in ownership came Abram Cornell and John Pickard. Much of the time in these early years

the mill was run day and night to keep up with the demand for lumber. In 1859 Howard Tillotson bought the mill, improved it, added a cider-mill and ran it until 1877. Philip Pelton came next and by him it was leased to Jacob Vander and Phineas Smith in turn. Finally, in 1886 the old mill was given up.

In 1843 the Resseguie saw-mill was built by Belding Resseguie on his own farm. At great expense of money and labor he had a mill-pond excavated and drew on all the springs of his own and his neighbors' farms for water, hollow logs being used as conduits. Hilar Foster acted as his sawyer when the mill was completed and ran the mill until 1859, when it was abandoned.

Like the saw-mill, the first grist-mill in the town of Van Buren was built in the Bangall region. It was erected somewhere about 1817 by James Paddock and was located on Lot 19, a little distance north of Bangall settlement. Paddock became involved financially and the property was taken from him. The mill passed to Thomas W. Curtis in 1820 and to Robert M. Rogers in 1822. Somewhere about 1825 it became the property of Calvin and Chauncey Goodrich, who built a distillery to run in connection with it. From that time the grist-mill was an adjunct to the "still" and shared its fortunes. James Paddock, the builder, removed farther west after his ill fortune in mill ventures. Another grist-mill was built in the forties by Albion J. Larkin on the mill-brook of Lot 18, near the old saw-mill sites. Henry Shaunts succeeded Larkin as mill owner and the mill was turned to a cotton-mill later.

At Baldwinsville the first south-side grist-mill stood on the site of the Clark & Mercer mill. It was built by Stephen W. Baldwin between 1825 and 1829, and in the latter year John McHarie purchased a half interest. The mill is described as having four run of stone. It has been rebuilt more than once. A second grist-mill was built at Baldwinsville by Sanford C. Parker in

1836 on the site of the present stone mill and was destroyed by fire in the sixties. The history of these mills belongs more particularly to that of the south side of Baldwinsville.

Connected with most of the grist-mills in the early part of the century were distilleries where the home-grown corn was transformed into the home-made whisky so popular in those days. The social status of the liquor habit was much higher then than now, and the little country distilleries that were to be found in every town were not especially frowned upon usually by the neighbors. The only "still" in the Town of Van Buren, which seems to have done any considerable amount of business in early years was located a little north of the corners at Bangall. About 1825 Calvin and Chauncey Goodrich had bought the old grist-mill on Lot 19 and added to it a "still." They ran it for a time and in 1830 sold the property to Charles H. Toll and Robert Rogers. The latter seems to have withdrawn later, leaving Toll sole owner until 1839, when he deeded it over to Theodore D. Cook, of Utica. The management of the plant now fell to Sidney H. Cook and Dewitt Cook. As Cooks' distillery, the place is best remembered locally. It did a thriving business in harvest time and at all times of the year was a center of great interest to a certain part of the town's population. It finally became unprofitable, however, and the Cooks disposed of it about 1850. James Williams held an interest in it later, but did not keep it running long.

Another country "still" of small proportions was established on Lot 20 about 1835. It was run by Henry Strong about two years and then the owner closed the plant and sold the apparatus. The Baldwinsville distillery began operation about 1856 and lasted about ten years, when high revenue taxes and competition closed its doors.

In former years a host of small industries flourished in the country towns,

which have been killed out by the competition of the great industrial corporations of the cities. Every town had within its borders a score or more of little shops which supplied the necessities of the locality.

A form of industry that was typical of the earliest period of the town was the making of pot-ashes. In times when vast quantities of lumber were annually burned in order to clear the land the ashes were carefully gathered and carried to the asheries for treatment to extract the alkali. Huge kettles suspended in arches boiled down the liquor until the potash crystallized out in solid form. Then it was sent eastward to Albany. Several asheries existed in Van Buren. The first one was that started by Luther Seaver in 1813 on Lot 27. It was probably not carried on very long. Abijah Hudson had one at Warners Settlement as early as 1825, and sold it in that year to John D. Norton who ran it some time. Another was carried on about the same time at Canton by Isaac Hill. Yet another existed in 1830 near the bank of the river in the northwest part of the town, probably on Lot 1. The state census of 1835 credited Van Buren with two asheries, but ten years later the census credits none to the town.

The fulling-mill and carding-machine was another institution of the olden time, which has been crowded out of country life by the great factories of the cities. When farmers' wives made their own clothing from wool grown in their own pastures, then was the fuller and carder a busy man in the community. Wool sheared from the sheep was cleaned and sent to the carder whose treatment sent it back to the housewife in long rolls of evenly disposed fibres ready for the spinning-wheel. By wheel and loom the wool was then turned into cloth and sent to the fulling mill. Here it was shrunk and rolled until it came back once more to its owner with heavy texture suitable for clothing.

Stephen Tincker came into Van Buren about 1830 and built his mill at the manufactory center at Bangall, where water-power was available and cheap. His mill drew custom from miles around and was quite an important feature of the section. In 1839 he sold to Timothy J. Handy who continued it some time, when the mill passed to Albion J. Larkin and was turned to a grist-mill.

John Armstrong's cotton-mill must also be mentioned. It was started at Bangall about 1872, the cotton being brought by railroad. The mill was given up after a few years' existence.

Tanneries were another industry. One Mead started a tannery about 1807 at Barns' corners, later called Ionia, and sold out finally to Daniel Betts who carried it on for many years. A tannery at Warners Settlement was early owned by David Tillotson who was succeeded by Amon Dayton and Ambrose S. Worden. They carried it on until the forties.

The Darrow pottery was started in 1845 on the Baldwinsville north side. In 1848 it was changed to its later location near the sulphur spring, where it was run under the firm name of J. Darrow & Son until 1876. It was an earthenware pottery until 1852 and then became a stoneware pottery, the clay used being brought from New Jersey.

Alvin Bostwick had a shop where he made spinning-wheels on Lot 27. His old shop, with a large overshot wheel, was a prominent feature of the scenery where the brook crosses the road. Bostwick established himself in the town about 1809 and his shop was kept running until 1854. His account book, now in possession of Mr. Maynard Ingoldsby, is a curious volume containing the names of scores of early settlers.

Jonathan Birge had a wood-turning shop at Bangall in the thirties. In 1848 F. R. Nichols and John Boley started a shop at Warners where they made cradles for the neighboring farmers. They did a flourishing business until 1853, when they discontinued. O.

*Kingbury
Jan 21*

B. Herrick's wire-sieve factory, south of Baldwinsville, another small industry, was started in the thirties and was carried on during the greater part of Mr. Herrick's life, being discontinued in the seventies.

Small foundries were another feature of mechanical life in early times. Plow points were cast for local patronage and other small metal supplies made to order. Levi Elsworth had such a place at Memphis as early as 1829. Twenty years later James Wood had an augur-shop at the same place. South of Baldwinsville John A. Gayetty and Alexander Rogers started a little foundry about 1845 and carried it on until the death of Rogers about 1862. Ezekiel Morris made edge-tools in Baldwinsville as early as the sixties.

These notes but scan briefly a very interesting side of local history. Much more could be said by those who are old enough to have noted the evolution in manufacturing methods from the past to the present.

THE CHURCHES—HISTORIES OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES OF VAN BUREN.

The early religious societies that were formed when the country was new were typical of the times in which they existed. They were small and isolated. Church buildings were very uncommon indeed, meetings being usually held in some log school-house whose small proportions were generally ample enough for the little congregation. Only in the advanced villages was it possible to maintain on a regular salary a pastor of clerical education. In the country churches the pastor or elder was more often a layman whose piety, education or enthusiasm fitted him for the task of expounding scripture to his neighbors. These pioneer church societies were not usually gifted with very vigorous life. Their records in many cases show great gaps that indicate times when meetings were irreg-

ular or abandoned entirely. Some were never revived after a lapse of this kind, while others were kept in existence in a feeble way until the growth of population gave them an added strength.

Where was the first church formed in Van Buren? Clark's history gives one date, Mason's history another and French's gazetteer a third, the latter being the earliest. According to the gazetteer a Presbyterian church was organized at Warners in 1803, and the name of S. B. Barnes is given in the same connection as the first preacher in the town. This is certainly an error. It is true that a Presbyterian church was founded in the old town of Camillus about this time, but its list of trustees which is on record shows no names of Van Buren men and it is quite certain that there were not in 1803 enough settlers around Warners to form any society. Stephen V. Barnes, a Presbyterian clergyman of early years, who is probably the preacher meant, was not ordained until 1815. He was resident in the county until 1824, when he went further west. The historian Clark names the Christian society as the first in the town. In this case there is probably a confusion between the first society to organize and the first one to erect a church building. The date of 1815 given in the Mason history for the Baptist society, now located at Memphis, is probably correct, although the fixing of that special date seems to be based entirely on the memories of certain old residents.

The Baptist denomination was early in the field for religious work in the Military Tract and grew rapidly despite the open jealousy of some of the older sects. The first society in the old town of Camillus was established at Elbridge about 1813, and the Second Baptist Church of Camillus was organized in 1815 at the settlement around the cross-roads on Lot 39. The old school-house at the corners was the scene of the church meetings for years. Some-

times meetings were held at the houses of different members, there being at this time only about a score of persons in the congregation. The earliest church records now existing are of the year 1820. This system of holding meetings at school-houses and houses lasted for a number of years. The growth of the village of Canton brought to the little congregation a number of new members whose homes were there and for their convenience occasional meetings were held at the village. The first meeting at Canton was held at the village school-house on February 25, 1826. The society organized for corporate life on March 30, 1830. Its pastor, John P. Parsons, assisted by Miles Seymour, presided over the meeting and it elected as the first trustees Chester Marshall, Charles H. Toll and Isaac Hill. Frequent meetings were held in Canton, but the Warner settlement held its claims as is shown by a resolution voted in 1830, deciding that services should be held alternately at Warners and at Canton. In the winter of 1833-34 a church building costing \$2,500 was erected at Canton, the first services in which were held February 21, 1834. Henceforth the church society remained at Canton, now Memphis, where the old church is an interesting specimen of old style architecture. The earlier pastors of the church are uncertain, but the names of B. Dowsitt, J. P. Parsons, Ira Dudley, T. Brown and Erastus Miner are first on the list. After them come in 1843, John Roscoe; 1845, S. Hough; 1848, L. C. Bates; 1852, Ira Dudley; 1855, G. Jonson; 1859, N. Camp; 1862, M. H. Dewitt; 1865, William A. Wells; 1871, B. Newton; 1873, J. Smith; 1876, William A. Wells; 1878, J. S. Blandon; 1882, J. S. Grant; 1884, E. A. Rogers; 1887, George Harrison; 1890, F. M. Beebe; 1893, Joseph A. Glenn.

Baptists in the eastern part of Van Buren had an opportunity to strengthen their fellowship in 1830, when a new congregation was organized at Belle

Isle. This society was located outside the limits of the town and its history does not properly belong to that of the town, yet Van Buren people were connected with its growth. Very little can be said of it. It was in existence a number of years, but in 1844 coalesced with the society at Camillus village and thus passed out of existence.

The Baptist society at Baldwinsville dates its connection with the town of Van Buren from 1840. It had been organized as early as 1818 in the town of Lysander, but its members decided, after much discussion, on its removal and the plan was carried into effect. A lot was secured on Canton street in Baldwinsville and the old country church was torn to pieces, transported to its new site and put together again for public worship. On January 13, 1841, the society changed its older name to that of the First Baptist Society of Lysander and Van Buren and its new location was completed by the formal dedication of the building on January 31, 1841. The church progressed with the gradual growth of the south side. In 1865 a lot was purchased on Grove street and a large brick parsonage erected. This was followed in March, 1871, by the purchase of the present church site and the building of the present church building on Syracuse street at a cost of \$18,000. It was dedicated in December, 1871. Following are the pastors since the church society has been in Van Buren: 1840, S. Davidson; 1841, I. Butterfield; 1842, O. Beckwith; 1843, H. Stillwell; 1845, Ira Bennett; 1848, Ira Dudley; 1849, A. Wells; 1851, R. Winegar; 1853, C. E. Elliot; 1855, A. Hall, Jr.; 1857, J. P. Simmons; 1861, J. S. Goodel; 1864, S. P. Merrill; 1870, B. O. True; 1872, J. N. Tolman; 1874, Charles Ayer; 1875, J. F. Genung; 1878, G. F. Genung; 1881, E. P. Weed; 1885, J. R. Shaw; 1888, P. W. Crannell; 1894, H. P. Klyver.

Presbyterianism, though never having a society of its own within the limits of Van Buren, is yet connected with

the religious history of the town. The old presbyteries of Onondaga and Cayuga, which were created in 1810 after the Presbyterian church had absorbed the Congregational organization of Central New York, found northwestern Onondaga an unoccupied territory, except for a single congregation in the old town of Camillus. In 1814 the Onondaga presbytery assigned Rev. John Davenport to church extension work at his own discretion in the northern part of the county and continued him so for several years. The church at Baldwinsville seems to have been one of the fruits of his labors. Its organization is said to date from 1813. Two years later it was incorporated as the Lysander and Camillus First Religious Society. James Wells, of Van Buren, was one of the first board of trustees. The congregation was partly made up of people from the Van Buren side of the river, but as the old church records were burned years ago few details can be given as to the earlier years. The society seems to have weakly existed for some years, only occasionally being represented in the presbytery. After an existence of about ten years in this way it was re-organized into new life. The second incorporation took place October 24, 1836, at the school-house in Baldwinsville where the society met stately. Five trustees were elected, two of the number, Gabriel Tappen and John Williams, being from the south side. In 1840 another re-organization took place, the oldest records now existing being of this year. As usual Van Buren names are prominent on the roll of members and have remained so to the present.

Whether or not the church now located at Camillus village was also due to Davenport's work cannot, perhaps, now be said, but it came into existence during his ministry and its influence seems to have covered a considerable region. The society was organized August 4, 1817, at Camillus, and on September 2nd Heman Warner appear-

ed before the presbytery with a request for recognition. The congregation was recognized and Warner took his seat as an elder. In 1810 Jonathan Skinner was the elder who attended the presbyterial meeting. The Camillus church proved a flourishing body, but after 1851 its history has nothing of interest to Van Buren.

Presbyterians were among the citizens of southern Van Buren who in 1831 organized the Union Society at Warners. They held considerable influence in that body for some years, but about 1841 seceded and held separate meetings in the school-house, at the same time, apparently, making formal organization as a Congregational body. In 1845 a Presbyterian church society was organized at Amboy and the Warners Presbyterians went to the new church in a body. Many Van Buren names are on the roll of this church.

The small denomination of the Christian Connection followed the Baptists in forming a society within the limits of the present town. The precise circumstances of the extension of this almost unknown sect are not now known. In all probability some one who had held fellowship with the Connection in some other region was the moving spirit in drawing together the new society. It was organized December 12, 1818, and the first entry on the old church records reads as follows: "Met on the above date at the house of Amasa Spalding a number of brethren and sisters and those whose names are underwritten, having obtained fellowship with each other as Christians, then and there agreed to unite and walk together as a Church of Christ, taking the Scriptures only for our rule for name, faith and practise." To this agreement was signed thirty-five names prominent among the number being Elijah Shaw, Abraham Wood, Daniel Godfrey, John Cox and Stephen Daniels. The society, like other religious bodies, met at various school-houses and homes in southwestern Van Buren and north-

ern Elbridge until 1829, when measures for having a building were initiated. On January 26, 1829, the "Congregation of People called Christians," as they styled themselves, met at the Ionia school-house under the presidency of Elders Obadiah E. Morrill and Joseph Badger and elected as trustees Henry McDowell, Jr., Solomon Sutherland, Joel Foster, David Corkins, Robert Rogers and John Ford. The incorporation papers were filed and on April 3rd, following the trustees received from Eleazer Dunham a deed for a site on Lot 37, south of Ionia. Here they built the first church edifice in the town at a cost of \$1200. The congregation's history for the next twenty years was one of varying prosperity. It lapsed for a time but on September 2, 1854, eight members of the old society gathered together again and re-organized. From this time its work has been carried on, the old church building being abandoned and the present one at Memphis being built in 1868 at a cost of \$2500. The parsonage was purchased in 1877. There seems to be no reliable data as to the succession of pastors in this church. A society organized in connection with the Ionia church existed for several years at Van Buren Center in the forties.

Congregationalism was early brought to Onondaga county by the New England pioneers, but its system was ill-adapted to extension in a newly settled country and it did not flourish. Presbyterianism gathered in many of its churches in 1810 and those who remained outside were not strong. A Congregational society was located at Ionia in early years but it has died out without apparently leaving a trace beyond the certificate of incorporation filed with the county clerk. This paper states that the "Central Congregational Society of Camillus" was formed at a meeting held May 19, 1827, at the Ionia school-house. Rev. Jephthah Pool and John C. Britton presided, with Dr. Uriah H. Duning as secretary.

The trustees elected in accordance with the state law were Cyrus Ladd, James Rogers and Jonathan Paddock. Another society, congregational in form, was the Union Society formed at the brick school-house in Warners on January 18, 1831, by a union of local Methodists, Presbyterians and Universalists. Herman Warner, Delanson Foster, Alfred Stephens, Peter Peck and Asa Barnes were chosen trustees. A church building was at once erected. About 1841 the Presbyterian element seceded and organized the "First Congregational Society of the town of Van Buren" on May 10, 1841. Jonathan Skinner was moderator of the meeting on that date and the three trustees elected by the new Society were Enos Peck, James Van Alstyne and Henry L. Warner. The society seems not to be remembered now and probably never had any active existence. The old Union Society was continued under that name until 1846, when it was formally gathered into the Methodist fold.

The Universalist faith was formerly quite widespread in the rural districts of New York. No special society of this belief was ever organized in Van Buren, although the census of 1835 credits the town with one. Doubtless, the reference was to the Union Society at Warners, in whose membership were Universalist believers.

Methodism entered into the religious life of Van Buren somewhat later than the other denominations, but its extension met with success. The strength of the Methodist church at the present day is in fact due to the wonderful adaption of its old system to the conditions of the time. As early as 1811 a Methodist society was organized in the present town of Elbridge, but not until 1821 was the work of the travelling preachers rewarded in the northern part of the old town of Camillus. An exhorter named James Baldwin held meetings in that year in one of the old log school-houses near Baldwinsville and formed a class which included be-

sides himself Samuel and Cynthia Wigent, Abraham and Polly Gillett, Eliza and Miriam Lindsay. These seven held meetings for religious worship and by their efforts succeeded in spreading the Methodist influence to a considerable extent in their neighborhood. The town of Van Buren was at this time within the territory of the old Marcellus circuit in the old Genesee conference. Manly Tooker and Nathaniel Salisbury are mentioned as early preachers in this circuit. In 1828 the Baldwinsville class was transferred to the Lysander circuit and about 1838 the class meetings began to be held on the north side of the Seneca river in the town of Lysander, to which community the subsequent history of the class belongs. It became in time a church, drawing largely its membership from the south side of the river, and is now the Methodist society of Baldwinsville. Van Buren people have always constituted an important part of its membership.

The old Methodist society at Jordan seems not to have drawn from Van Buren, nor did the society established at Camillus village about 1827; but soon afterward the Methodist element about Warners began to organize. About 1830 a class was formed there by Isaac Puffer and George W. Wensmore, early preachers of the old Marcellus circuit. The class helped to organize the old Union society in 1831 and to build a church edifice. The Methodist element was very prominent in the old Union Society. Warners Settlement seems to have first become a permanent station of the Methodist church in 1838, when conference reports show that William C. Mason was the local preacher. Before this, however, there had been local exhorters and Elijah Barnes is said to have been the first preacher in the old church. The Warners pastors preached also at Peru, Van Buren Corners and Amboy at this time. In 1846 the Union Society was re-organized as a Methodist church. At the

election of trustees on March 21, 1846, were chosen Jacob Steves, Lawrence Lamerson, Aaron Quimby, Francis R. Nichols and Ezra Nichols. The burning of the church records several years ago makes it difficult to get any incidents of its history. From 1838 to 1868 it was a member of the Black River Conference and since then of the Central New York Conference. It was included in the Oswego district from 1838 to 1854 and then became a part of the Syracuse district as it is now. In 1869 the old church built in 1831 was re-built in its present form and in September, 1869, was re-dedicated. Following is the list of pastors of the church: 1838, William C. Mason; 1839, Isaac Hall; 1841, Royal Houghton; 1843, Orman C. Lathrop; 1844, Anson Tuller; 1846, P. S. Bennett; 1847, Eleazer Whipple; 1849, J. W. Coop; 1851, Lewis Whitcomb; 1853, J. R. Lewis; 1854, Peleg Barker; 1855, J. B. Graham; 1857, Orman C. Lathrop; 1859, Moses Lyon; 1861, Charles Baldwin; 1863, Isaac Hall; 1864, Royal Houghton; 1867, A. L. Smalley; 1870, E. D. Thurston; 1872, N. M. Wheeler; 1873, A. H. Shurtleff; 1876, J. Maxwell; 1879, H. B. Smith; 1882, E. Jarvis; 1884, Elbert A. Peck; 1886, Julius C. Hitchcock; 1891, Charles E. Fry. There was a Methodist society at Van Buren Corners for many years, which had prayer meetings and Sunday school as a branch of the Warners church.

A Methodist Protestant church was organized at Van Buren Corners in 1842 by disaffected members of the Methodist society. Revival meetings were held and Rev. Mr. McFarland settled there as a regular pastor. After a few years' residence he went to another locality and the society became weakened and finally disbanded.

The Roman Catholic was the latest denomination to organize in Van Buren. Many Catholic families had come into the village of Baldwinsville in the forties and about 1840 the first services began to be held in the upper room of

a small building at the corner of Canton and Water streets. Occasional visits to the place were made by pastors from the Syracuse churches, among these being Rev. Michael Hackett and Rev. Joseph Guerdet. When the Camillus church was organized the duties of its pastor were extended to cover Baldwinsville and from that time more regular services were held in the village. Rev. Samuel Mulloy devoted much attention to the Baldwinsville section and by his efforts there was organized in 1851 a church society by which land was purchased and an edifice erected. After Mulloy, services were held in Baldwinsville by Rev. William McCallian and Rev. James Smith. In 1867 the Bishop of Albany placed a permanent pastor in charge of the Baldwinsville church and from that time it has been a regular parish. The pastors who have been in charge of the church are as follows: 1867, P. F. Smith; 1870, P. B. McNulty; 1872, D. J. O'Keefe; 1874, J. S. M. Lynch; 1875, Francis Campenhardt; 1880, E. Bayard; 1882, J. A. Kelly; 1886, P. H. Beecham.

EARLY TAX-PAYERS—NAMES OF TAX-PAYERS GIVEN ON THE 1825 ASSESSMENT ROLL OF CAMILLUS.

In the possession of A. M. Knickerbocker, of Syracuse, is the old assessment roll of the Town of Camillus for 1825, in which year John Lakin was collector. It contains the list of taxable property in the town at that time, and as the present town of Van Buren was a part of Camillus the book is of interest to Van Buren people. The names of those listed as property owners in each lot of the town is here given. It must be borne in mind that ownership of land on a particular lot does not necessarily imply residence on that lot nor even residence within the limits of the town.

Lot 1—Elihu Wright.

2—Thomas Chapman, Dunham Ely,

Jacob Spore, Henry Spore, Nicholas Veeder.

- 3—Daniel Diltz, John Diltz, Morris Diltz, John C. Finck, Joseph Onderkirk, Nicholas Onderkirk, David Prouty, John Tarpenny, Nicholas Veeder.
- 4—Frederick Howard, Margaret Melin, Frederick Onderkirk, Peter F. Onderkirk, Richard B. Onderkirk, Gabriel Tappen.
- 5—Elijah Lindsay, George Rouse, Jonathan Safford, Asher Tappen, Gabriel Tappen, John Wigent heirs, Samuel Wigent, John Williams.
- 6—Henry Clark, Nathan Gillet, William Malby, William Rouse, David Scoville, Gabriel Tappen.
- 7—Jonas C. Baldwin, Warren S. Baldwin, John McHarie, Gabriel Tappen, James Wells.
- 8—James Clark, James Johnson, Eli S. Ketchum, Marcus Rice, Daniel Saxton, Levi Weston, Rufus Whitecomb, Joseph Wilson.
- 9—Phineas Barnes heirs, Anna Calkins, William Calkins, George Kill, Sylvanus Marvin, John McGee, James Rice, Isaac Saxton, George Stephens, Calvin Taylor.
- 10—John C. Finck, James Sweet, Nicholas Veeder, John Wright.
- 11—Henry Clark, Chester Malby, Nathan Marvin, Jonathan Odell, Isabel Pelton, Belden Resseguie, Justus Weber, John Wigent heirs, Isaac Wilcox, James Williams.
- 12—John Brittin, Jr., John G. Clark, David Haynes, Isaac Malby, Jacob Malby.
- 13—John L. Cooper, Assalum Culver, Ira Earll, Hawley & Patch, John Herrick, Stephen How, Oliver Leonard, David Penoyer, Levi Perry, James A. Scoville, Albert G. Wells.
- 14—Augustus Harris, Jacob F. Springsted, Charles Turner.
- 15—Decker & Crego, William Jones of Onondaga, Asahel Kingsley, Daniel Nelson, John H. Newberry, John Patch, Widow Starkweather, Amos

- Taft, Peter Taft, Nathaniel Tompkins.
- 16—Owners' names unknown.
- 17—Dunham & Miller, Jonathan Foster, John Gridley, John Griswold, Horatio Griswold, Abraham H. Hamblin, Robert Parks, Daniel Stilson, Aaron Warner.
- 18—Edward B. Angel, Ira Barnes, Phineas Barnes heirs, Obadiah Bates, Aaron Bell, Lyman Burrill, Ethan Campbell, George Casler, Moses Dunning, Daniel Elsworth, John C. Finck, Augustus Foster, Joel Foster, Jonathan Foster, Noah Marshall, Simon & Harlow Marshall, Solomon Rhoades, Marcus Rice, Thomas Smith, Amos Warner, Seth Warner, Benjamin Wever, Elijah White, Cornelius Young.
- 19—Ira Barnes, Pardon Hart, Stephen Hart, Phineas Meigs, James Paddock, Simon Rouse, James Rogers, Peter H. Rogers, Robert M. Rogers, Solomon Sutherland, Nathan Williams.
- 20—Amos Hall, Pardon Hart, David How, Samuel How, Phineas Meigs, Jr., Simon Rouse, Amasa Scoville, Abijah Sears, Arza Sears, Augustus Smith, Nathan Weaver, Nathan Williams.
- 21—Darius Armstrong, William Bartholomew, Thomas Bowen, Nathaniel Cornell, Jr., Joseph Hopkins, William Lindsay, Ebenezer Morley, John Morley, Philander Olcott, John Robinson, Henry Springsted, Enos Talmage, John R. Waterman.
- 22—John S. Allen, Roderick Burroughs, Nathaniel Cornell, Nathaniel Cornell, Jr., Benoni E. Danks, Azor Daton, Isaac Earll, Asahel Kingsley, Cyrus H. Kingsley, John Patch, William Ware, Benjamin Wilkinson.
- 23—George Borden, Marcus Earll, Isaac Mann, William McClain, Mullet & Barber, David Munro, Jacob Orr, John Patch, Abijah Ware.
- 24—Levi Ross.
- 25—Ira Barnes, Phineas Barnes heirs, Daniel Betts, Joel Foster, Jonathan Foster, Joshua L. & L. Davis Hardy, Eber Hart, Jr., Ezra Loomis, Stephen Mead, Stephen Ostrander, Horace Rewey, Marcus Rice, Amos Warner, Ezra Warner, Thomas Warner, William Welch, Reuben Woodard.
- 26—Jonathan Barney, Phineas Barnes heirs, Henry Cook, Asa Crossman, Archibald Green, Moses How, Asahel Hungerford, Levi Paddock, Loren Shead, Sylvester Shead, Aaron Steele, Joseph Wilcox.
- 27—Alvin Bostwick, John Clark, Jr., John Crumb, Alpheus Earll, David How, Jonathan How, John Inglesbee, Michael Redman, Abijah Sears, Hiram Warner, Andrew Weaver.
- 28—Asa Barnes, William Hall, Norton F. Marvin, Hiram Nichols, Dudley Norton, Holden L. Olbro, Isaac Peck, Benjamin Pulsopher, Warren Russell, Samuel Skinner, Eli Sprague, Joel Warner, James Williams.
- 29—David Cornell, Holder Cornell, John Cornell, Peleg Cornell, Augustus Harris, Isaac Lindsay, Isaac Peck, Peter Peck, Bennet Rusco, Calvin Waterman, Eleazer Waterman, Elijah Waterman, Thomas Waterman.
- 37—Edward B. Angel, Hiram Barnes, Phineas Barnes, Jr., Daniel Betts, Daniel Calkins, John Couant, Eleazer Dunham, Uriah H. Dunning, Joshua L. & L. Davis Hardy, Isaac Hill, William Kester, John Laird, Abraham Lipe, Oliver Nichols, Abram Rogers, Benjamin Simpson heirs, Thomas Smith, Charles H. Toll, Loammi Wilcox.
- 38—William Caine, Henry Cook, John Cunningham, Robert B. Cunningham heirs, Dunning & Laughlin, Samuel Eaton, innkeeper, John Ford, Joshua Hardy, Isaac Hill, Samuel Hoat, Samuel How, Cyrus Ladd, John Lakin, David C. & Samuel Lytle, Francis D. Miner, Oliver Nichols, Alvah Scofield.

- 39—Isaac Bentley, James Drew, Samuel Nelson, Browning Nichols, Francis Nichols, Linus Squire, Henry Warner heirs, Jonathan Warner, Seth Warner.
- 40—Delanson Foster, William N. Higgins, Abijah Hudson, George W. Marvin, Dudley Norton, Isaac Peck, Aaron Quimby, Jonathan Skinner, Samuel Skinner, Truman Skinner, Linus Squire, David Tillotson.
- 41—John H. Lamerson, Almon Peck, Elihu Peck, Isaac Peck, Peter Peck, John Sears.
- 42—William Bartholomew, John Bowen, Henry Brand, John Curtis, David Dolph, Abel Dwight, Isaac Earll, Daniel Hay, David Parish, Elihu Peck, Joseph Robinson, Reuben Robinson.
- 43—Peter Bowman, John Bowman, Sylvanus Hodges, Daniel Loveless, Peter McQueen, Jonathan Parish, Stephen Robinson, George Schraeder.

Another series of interesting facts is found in local records in the shape of references to town officers while Van Buren was a part of the old town of Camillus. The offices of supervisor and town clerk have already been noted. From scattered sources are gathered the following additional facts:

Benjamin Weaver was assessor in 1813. Gabriel Tappen in 1816 and 1817. Phineas Barnes in 1819, 1822, 1823 and 1824. John Bowman in 1824.

Gabriel Tappen was trustee of the public lots in 1816, Seth Warner in 1822, 1823 and 1824, Cyrus H. Kingsley in 1824.

Gabriel Tappen was commissioner of highways in 1813, Josiah Parish in 1814, Isaac Lindsay in 1814, James Paddock in 1815 and 1816. Phineas Barnes in 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819 and 1820, Henry Cook in 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823 and 1824, Augustus Harris in 1821 and 1822, Enos Talmage in 1824, 1825 and 1826, Benjamin Weaver in 1826 and 1827, Cyrus H. Kingsley in 1828 and 1829.

Gabriel Tappen was commissioner of common schools in 1817 and 1819, Benjamin Weaver in 1824 and 1825, D. C. Lytle in 1824 and 1825, Adonijah White in 1827 and 1828.

Heman Warner was overseer of the poor in 1817, 1818 and 1819, Phineas Barnes in 1818.

Abram Rogers was constable in 1813 and 1814, Stephen Shead in 1818 and 1820, John Lakin in 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822 and 1825, John Patch in 1822, 1823 and 1824.

Justices of the peace were appointed from Albany up to 1827. Among those so appointed were Heman Warner about 1812, C. H. Toll in 1814, Isaac Earll in 1815, Phineas Barnes in 1815, Linus Squire in 1820. These held office for many years each. After 1827 justices were elected, John Lakin was chosen in that year and held over until after Van Buren was created. John Patch was also elected in 1827 and re-elected in 1828.

THE CREATION OF THE TOWN—THE PERSONALITY OF MARTIN VAN BUREN—THE FIRST TOWN MEETING.

The Town of Van Buren as a separate community dates from 1829, when it was set off from Camillus. For several years before that date the old town of Camillus had polled a larger vote at each successive election than any other town in the county. By virtue of its large population the town had exercised a great degree of influence, too, in county affairs, and perhaps it was this latter fact that had as much as anything to do with its division, since other towns were not disposed to continue the existence of their overgrown rival. The whole western part of the state had been rapidly growing in the early part of the century and every legislature was concerned with the creation of new counties and new towns to keep up

with the increase of population. No less than seventeen towns were created at the same time with Van Buren.

The separation of the old town of Camillus into three parts came up before the legislature which met in the winter of 1828-29. The town was represented in that body by two of its citizens. Hiram F. Mather, of Elbridge, was state senator and Herman Jenkins, of Jordan, was assemblyman. Within a very few days after the session was opened the bill to divide Camillus was introduced into the senate, probably by Mather, and sent to the proper committee. In due time it came back with a favorable report, and about the end of January went to the assembly for its endorsement. More time elapsed on its passage through the lower house, but it finally went through and became a law on March 26, 1829.

There was nothing about the bill to especially distinguish it from others passed for a similar purpose. It was entitled, "An act to divide the town of Camillus in the county of Onondaga." Its first, second and third sections provided for the boundaries and initial town-meetings of Elbridge, Van Buren and Camillus respectively. The fourth and fifth sections for the proper apportionment of the poor fund and school moneys and the sixth section for the powers and duties of the towns under the general statutes. The second section, which was the one concerning Van Buren, was as follows:

All that part of said town included within the following bounds, beginning at the south-east corner of lot number forty-three, thence west along the south line of said lot to the east line of lot number forty-two, thence south along the east line of said lot number forty-two to the south-east corner thereof, thence west along the south lines of lots number forty-two, forty-one, forty, thirty-nine, thirty-eight and thirty-seven to the south-west corner of said lot number thirty-seven, thence north to the north-east corner of lot number thirty-six, thence west to the north-west corner of said lot number thirty-six, thence north along the east line of lot number thirty-five to the Seneca river, thence along said river to the north-east corner of lot number fifteen and thence to the place of beginning, shall be and the same hereby is erected into a separate town by the name of Van Buren; and the first town-meeting

therein shall be held at the house of Eleazer Dunham in said town on the last Tuesday of April next and annually thereafter on the third Tuesday of April until changed according to law.

It is said that a commission of three men, including Gabriel Tappen and John Lakin, was appointed to lay out the new town. The act of 1829 makes no provision for such a body and if such a commission existed it was probably appointed by the town board of Camillus. There seems to be no record of its existence.

The bill dividing Camillus gave to one of the new towns the name of Van Buren as a compliment to Martin Van Buren, governor of the state, whose political fortunes were then in the ascendant. He was slated for the leading place in the cabinet of President Jackson at the time that the bill was introduced into the senate, and before its final passage actually resigned his office to accept the new position. There is no record, apparently, that the governor in any way showed his appreciation of the compliment, although some sort of acknowledgement was doubtless made. There is no evidence either to show that the inhabitants of the new town had any share in the choice of the name. They probably cared little what the name was so long as they had the fact of separate existence. It has been said that the choice of the name was brought about to offset locally the name of Henry Clay, which had been given to another Onondaga town two years before, but there is probably no basis to this theory.

Martin Van Buren, from whom the town was named, was one of the most talented of the long series of public men that the Empire State has given to the nation. He was not a statesman in the broadest sense of the word. He was more distinctively a politician, but even this word is not entirely just to him from the modern standpoint, for while he was deeply skilled in the details of party management and the scheming tricks of their manipulation,

he at the same time showed throughout his whole career a vigor and independence of thought and an ever-present wish to build for the future with measures suited for the best good of the people. His peculiar talent, to which he owed his success in public life, was his ability as an organizer of men into bodies to be handled by his own strong will. He was the son of a Columbia county farmer. Born December 5, 1782, at Kinderhook, he got an education in the common schools, and when fourteen years old went into the office of a village lawyer to learn the profession. Here he proved an apt student and took as naturally to politics as to law. It was at this time that the Democratic Republican party—it later dropped the second part of its name—was struggling against the dominant power of the Federalists. In Columbia county, where the Democrats were in a hopeless minority, they welcomed every new worker in their ranks and so it came about that Van Buren was a political worker before he was a voter and that when only eighteen years of age he was sent as delegate to a political convention. Later he left Kinderhook to pass an additional year in a New York law office, and in 1803 returned to his native village to hang out his sign for regular practice. The fascination of politics again drew him into party work. The Democrats had by this time overthrown the Federalist power and, having grown supreme and beyond rivalry, had promptly split in two factions which fought one another with all the vigor and venom of forgotten brotherhood. Van Buren cast his lot with the Clintonians and when that faction came into power in 1808 he was rewarded with his first office, that of surrogate of Columbia county, county officers being then appointed from Albany. He was now, at the age of twenty-six, a local leader with a following of his own. Five years later, when the Clintonians lost the state

again and Van Buren's office was taken from him, he took the nomination for state senator and after a hard fight triumphed in a hostile district by a narrow majority. While thus coming to the front as a political leader he had not neglected his profession, but had built up an extensive practise with a reputation for clear thinking and strong argument that made him a very undesirable antagonist at the bar. In the state senate the same qualities which had made him a leading attorney made him also a strong legislative leader. Governor Clinton was at this time the "boss" of the state. He courted Van Buren's fealty, but the latter, after some dallying, broke with Clinton, and with careful skill drew together the anti-Clintonian elements to form the "Bucktail" party, of which he was the recognized head. Now he was in a position to play the politician in earnest. In 1815 he was made attorney-general and soon afterward he engineered a scheme that showed he could be both bold and unscrupulous when necessary. The entire state patronage at this time was practically in the hands of the state assembly, and when the unexpected turn of an election brought to the opposition the control of the assembly by one majority Van Buren's friends were threatened with eviction from their offices. It was a desperate pass and a bold game was played. Van Buren caused a seat to be contested on a mere technicality, thus breaking the majority. The Bucktails then organized the house, chose the council of appointment and so fixed themselves in power before they could be blocked. It was a move that met with denunciation at the time, but Van Buren came out of it successfully. Politicians have failed since then in similar attempts.

Van Buren had not relinquished his seat in the senate when made attorney-general. He was in the senate from 1813 to 1820, and in that time he moulded the future of state politics

more than has any man since. Until he entered state politics political parties had been mere factions held together by the personalities of their leaders. To Van Buren we owe the building up of that convenient system of party ideals by which large masses of men may be whipped into line by party managers through the magic of a party name rather than by the magnetism of a leader or the value of a platform.

In 1817 occurred an incident for which Onondaga county may look to Van Buren with some gratitude. He was then the acknowledged head of the Bucktail majority in the legislature. Governor Clinton, his opponent, had brought the Erie canal project before the people and the legislature was to act upon it. The success of the scheme meant much for Clinton's political future. An ordinary politician would have promptly killed Clinton's hopes by voting down the project. Van Buren showed his superiority to his kind by passing the bill through. Several such incidents in his career showed that public welfare did not stand second to personal ambition in his mind.

After reaching a commanding position in state politics Van Buren had begun to dabble a little with national politics as well. In 1820 he was a presidential elector and in 1821 he secured for himself a seat in the federal senate from New York state. Before this time he had organized from among his friends the famous "Albany Regency" dominated by himself and ruling with autocratic power the Democratic party in the state. When he entered public life at Washington, therefore, it was with the prestige of being "the boss" of his state and one on whose word might depend the fate of a presidency. New York state had already taken a position as the pivotal state in national politics, and presidential aspirants, nominated as they were then by congressional caucus, felt

themselves more or less at the mercy of its representatives.

Coming into Congress in this manner, with all the prestige of power and ability, he soon took a leading place in the national senate. He found there, just as he had found formerly in the New York legislature, no parties in our modern sense, but only unorganized personal factions. In 1825 Van Buren began to organize for his own purposes a party, drawing together his colleagues on the common basis of opposition to the administration. A re-election as senator in 1827 continued his work, but when Governor Clinton died in 1828 Van Buren left Washington to become governor at Albany. Van Buren had with his party in congress favored the presidential claims of Andrew Jackson and, having become the recognized leader of that party, the success of Jackson in the fall elections of 1828 opened his way to a place in the cabinet. Van Buren had taken the oath of office as governor on January 1, 1829, but on March 12th, following, sent in his resignation of his seat. It was at this time, while public opinion pointed to him as the political heir of Jackson in the presidency, that the bill to divide the town of Camillus went through the legislature and that the governor's name was bestowed on one of the new towns created by that bill. The bill became a law two weeks after his resignation.

The remainder of Van Buren's career belongs to the history of the nation. He was made Jackson's secretary of state, but soon resigned that place when he found it not to his taste. Then he went to England as minister, but only stayed a year. In 1832 when Jackson was elected for the second time Van Buren became vice-president and at the next choice he himself became president of the nation, serving from 1837 to 1841. He was re-nominated but was defeated by Harrison. He then retired to a country seat near his native village and though mingling in

politics more or less for the next twenty years held no important office and died July 24, 1862.

The town which was named after this staunch Democratic leader began its history on April 28, 1829, when the first town-meeting was held in Eleazer Dunham's tavern on the four corners at Ionia. Undoubtedly it was a day of rejoicing among the electors of the new community, for with few exceptions they were all loyal followers of the aforesaid leader and were probably in a mood to celebrate their independence from the people of the more southern towns. The record of this town-meeting is preserved in the old town book of Van Buren, which has survived the dangers of neglect and of fire and has had its record extended from year to year by the laborious fingers of town clerks and special town clerks till it includes the whole span of the town's history from that first town-meeting to the one but a few weeks gone by. The book begins with the first town-meeting and its record of that day reads precisely as follows, except for the omission of the road overseers which have been already given in a previous paper.

At the Annual meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Vanburen held at the house of Eleazer Dunham Agreeable to an act passed by the Legislature of the State of New York on the 26 Day of March 1829.

The following persons were elected for the ensuing year, April 28th 1829. Viz.,

Gabriel Tappen Supervisor
Abel Lyon Town Clerk
Helding Resseguie Cyrus H. Kingsley Asa Barnes Assessors
Charles Turner Henry Cook David Wiles Com of Highways
Daniel Betts Orvis Foot Isaac Earll Trustees of Public Lot
Eliabhan McLaughlin Isaac Hill Adonijah White Com of Common Schools.
Peter Peck & Amos Warner Overseers of the Poor

Wareham Root James Abrams Jr Thomas Warterman Inspectors of Common Schools
David Penoyer Collector

Voted that the Collector have three cents on the Dollar for Collecting the Tax

Voted that we have four constables in said Town The following persons were Chosen Constables.

Henry Olds Joseph L Marvin Oliver Leonard David Penoyer Constables

The following persons were chosen Overseers of the highways

[Names here follow]

Then Voted by Ballot for the place of holding town meeting next year

Carried by a Large majority to Eleaser Dunham's.

Then Adjourned to the third Tuesday of April next 1830 at the house of Eleazer Dunham's In Van Buren

With very few exceptions the first office-holders of the new town were farmers who had every possible reason for devotion to its interests. Gabriel Tappen, the first supervisor, was a prosperous farmer in the Dead Creek valley. Abel Lyon, the town clerk, was a store-keeper at Ionia, who had kept the records of the old town of Camillus for several years before the town was divided. The rest of the offices were distributed over the town with even-handed justice. From Canton were taken Isaac Hill, the merchant, and Dr. Wareham Root, both chosen to oversee the local schools. From near Ionia were Cook, Betts, Foot, Warner, Abrams and Olds. From Warner Settlement were Barnes, White and Marvin. From Van Buren corners were Kingsley, Earll, Waterman and Leonard. From the Macksville region were Turner, Wiles and Penoyer. McLaughlin and Peck lived in the south-east corner of the town and Resseguie lived in the Dead Creek valley. Justices of the peace were at this time chosen at the fall elections, but as the division had left Van Buren only one justice a special act had to be passed by the legislature to remedy the defect. At a special election in June following Isaac Earll, of Van Buren, Jonathan Skinner, of Warner, and David Corkins, of Memphis, were elected. The fourth justiceship was already held by John Lakin and in November, at the regular election, he was superseded by John McHarrie, of Macksville.

Gabriel Tappen, the supervisor chosen at this time, was for many years one of the leading citizens of the town. He was born at Morristown, N. J., on June 20, 1783, and was brought to the town of Van Buren in 1796 by his father,

John Tappen, who settled near Ionia. He was brought up in the town and about 1805 married the daughter of the elder John McHarrie. The death of the latter brought partly upon Tappen the care of the McHarrie lands at Macksville and he removed to that section of the town, buying considerable land west of the settlement and becoming, as the town developed, prominent in all matters of local interest. He took a company of militia to

the relief of Oswego in the war of 1812. He helped organize the schools and the churches of the region and was given many town offices culminating finally when the town was laid off in his selection as its first supervisor. He served more than one term as supervisor and in 1833 went to the legislature, the first citizen of Van Buren who was given an honor of the sort. He died August 4, 1865, at the age of 82 years and is buried in Riverside cemetery.



Indian Sites in Van Buren.

By Rev. W. M. Beauchamp, S. T. D.

Certain classes of Indian relics are common but a moderate distance on either side of Lake Ontario. They extend through Michigan, on both sides of Lake Erie and Ontario, down the St. Lawrence to Montreal, and along Lake Champlain. They are almost absent from the Mohawk valley, and very rare in New England. Van Buren occupies the southern limit of this early belt. These articles were not made by our later Indians, nor were they all made by the same race. The distinctions of articles and sites are at once apparent to an experienced eye.

Among these articles are stone tubes of varying length, perforated gorgets, the so called banner stones, the amulets of striped slate, usually either bird or bar shaped, the half circular Eskimo woman's stone knife, the pointed and polished slate knives now used only by that people, and articles of soapstone. It would take long to describe all these, and this brief mention must now suffice. Even flint articles are not all of the same period or people, no stone perforator or scraper having yet been found on an Iroquois site.

One of the most remarkable Indian works remaining here is one seldom seen: the stone fish weir opposite Lot 2, at Bishop's Rifts. Several such works are known in this and other rivers, but this is the best preserved which has been fully examined. The Indians used these much as we do,

sometimes with traps, and sometimes by spearing the fish detained in them. Not rarely they drove the fish in from above with their spears, or by drawing a grape vine along near the bottom, this being stretched from bank to bank. In the specifications with the Lessee Company the Onondagas reserved the right to build and use such weirs between Three Rivers and Cross lake, and they were an old institution. This one commences in shallow water on the south shore, running down stream at a slight angle for 210 feet, the returning angle being 340 feet long; the next wall runs down 145 feet and returns 160. The third bay was in much deeper water, and is almost obliterated, but would probably bring the total length up to 1200 feet at least, requiring much labor from the red men. The wall is two feet deep, and made of field stones. In these may have sometimes been placed branches or stakes, when the water was high.

Stone sinkers are so common all along the river as to show the use of nets, the Indians making a good twine from wild hemp, as well as the inner bark of trees. As will be seen, fish hooks were very rare, but there was an ingenious arrangement for angling quite as effective. A short stick sharpened at both ends, had the line tied in the center. The bait was slipped over this, bringing the line to one end, so that it would appear as a

minnow would with us. When the bait was swallowed, a jerk brought the stick at right angles to the throat, and the fish was neatly taken. But the Indians at all times much preferred the spear. This is the way in which they were observed taking eels near here a hundred years ago: "They are usually two or three in a canoe: one steersman, one who spears in the bow, the third takes care of the fires, made from dry, easily flaming wood, in a hollow piece of bark, first covered with sand."

In 1657 the missionaries wrote of the river that the "savages manage so well their dykes and their weirs that they take there at the same time the eel which is going down and the salmon which is going up." They give the same account of spearing, "the eel being so abundant there that some take with a harpoon as much as a thousand in a single night," which would be called good fishing by white men.

There were no earth works in the town, but possibly there may have been several stockades, as there were certainly a few villages which were occupied for some years. The circular stockade on L. Talmage's farm, on Lot 13, is the best known of these. It was on the west side of the road, between his house and the small brook to the north, and was about 300 feet in diameter. The single gateway was on the north side, and near the bank of the stream. A few lodges were on the north side of the brook, outside the fort, and at some distance. Several persons have told the writer that, when they were boys, they had stepped from one hole to another, where the posts stood, all around the fort. Like all early forts, this affords much brown earthenware and some fine relics. Charred corn is still plowed up.

There was also an extensive stockade on Mrs. Crego's farm, Lot 6. The holes did not appear in this, but the plow encountered some of the posts. The area is about 150x500 feet; rather a

rare form for land so level, although the writer has examined those still narrower on steep ridges. The only Unio bead found in this county was picked up here by the writer; and here also was found the barbed point of a bone fish hook. But three such hooks are known in the State. In the same field was found the fine native copper spear, now in Mr. Bigelow's collection, and which the writer figured for Dr. Abbott's "Primitive Industries." Besides many common articles, others of note have been obtained here. Most of the stone articles are somewhat rude.

The process of making stockades varied with their strength. A single line of pickets was sometimes set up, but this was not a favorite mode until European implements were introduced, on account of the depth required for the holes. Sometimes a bank of earth was thrown up, and the posts were raised on either side of this and bound together where they crossed at the top. Large logs, placed end to end, often took the place of the earthen bank, and had likewise a double palisade, crossing at a sharp angle above. This required no holes at all. The more common triple stockade had upright posts nearly two feet apart, with a row on either side intersecting at the top. Riders of wood were placed at this intersection, binding all together, and even developing into strong battlements. This form required holes for the central posts, but not for the others. The solitary example of the quadruple palisade was that attacked by Champlain in 1615. Posts were supplied by burning down trees, and applying fires to the trunks at suitable intervals. One person could easily manage thirty such fires, and so such work went on rapidly. Commonly a tree was left in the center of the fort for a lookout.

A group of sites does not indicate a large population at any one time. The Iroquois moved their village at intervals of ten or twenty years, and the

great Onondaga village has had at least nine removals since the beginning of the 17th century. Two villages on opposite sides of Seneca river have definite relations to each other, and are but a few hundred years old, but the Talmage site seems to have had no connection with these. The two villages and burial places on Seneca and Syracuse streets, Baldwinsville, may have been successively occupied by those who lived west of Mr. G. A. Bigelow's house, on the north side of the river. This connection appears from a comparison of relics and character of burial, as well as of the sites themselves.

It may be said here that one remarkable distinction appears in the character of the lodge sites. Some have accumulations of stones, often called hearths, and these are usually quite old. No such collections appear in those of a later day. This may have some relation to the modes of boiling water, for some camps are utterly devoid of traces of pottery of any kind. This carries us back to the primitive use of bark vessels in cooking, when water was heated by dropping hot stones into it. In this way wooden vessels were easily used. Soapstone vessels were all brought from a distance, and the smoke and grease yet appear on the outside of many. Earthenware could be used in a double way. By fastening a cord to a stick long enough to go from side to side within the narrowed rim, it could be suspended, but the vessel is usually blackened within instead of without, as though heated by hot stones. These several modes were used by different races.

There was a small early hamlet just west of Dead creek and not far from the river, but not long occupied. This was on Lot 4. Almost all the Van Buren sites are prehistoric, and those will be called early which antedate the middle of the 16th century.

There were two small hamlets, or apparently a series of camps, just east of the mouth of Dead creek. The relics vary greatly, as would be expected, and one or two were very fine. Small camps were occasional along the creek, and on the east side, near Col. Tappan's old home, on Lot 4, were traces of quite a hamlet. "Indian Orchard," some distance west of the creek, and near the river, was one of the two places where glass beads have been found.

Two hamlets and some camps were at the old "Grape Vine," on the river bank, Lot 7, near the west line of Baldwinsville. West of the fence there was pottery, east of it none. Just at the fence, and on the east side, was a small burial place, with glass beads, which are occasional further down. Last year one of the Jesuit brass rings was found there. Thence there were scattered lodges and camps along the river as far as the present village reaches the water, at its southeast line.

Between Seneca and McHarie streets was an Indian village and burial place, and another on the east side of Syracuse street, on village block 54. Both these were occupied for a considerable time, and by the later Indians. A good many skeletons have been exhumed at both places, twenty at one time, but no relics were found with them. The site on Syracuse street had a small extension west of the road. Quite a hamlet of earlier date once occupied the point opposite the small island. No pottery was found there.

A small hamlet existed on Mrs. Lamerson's farm, Lot 41, a little southeast of the house. It was an early occupation, without pottery, and the neighborhood seems to have been a favorite with hunters.

A site on a hill on the Somes' farm, Lot 16, is said to have been probably a stockade, but has not been critically examined. Relics once abounded there. There are lodge sites on the same lot near the river. On one of these was found a fine and unique banner stone,

with two lateral holes besides the usual long perforation. No other like this has met the writer's eye.

Lodge sites occur on the old fair grounds, and further down the river. Some unique pottery was found at the mouth of Crooked Brook. In fact, any spot of sandy land near the river was apt to have its Indian camp. The red man was not partial to a stiff clay soil. Not long since Mr. H. B. Odell found a broad stone with a large central depression made in sharpening tools, and rude pestles are common.

Mounds are rare in this part of the State, but two of earth having been known in the county. Two large stone heaps, however, in E. L. Talmage's woods, Lot 21, covered human bones. Such heaps were more frequent farther east, and were usually of recent date. Sometimes they marked spots where treaties had been made, or commemorated some other remarkable event. More commonly they indicated the grave of some person of note. Those who passed them usually added a stone to the growing pile, so that on frequented trails they often acquired large dimensions. In this county, however, graves are more commonly marked by depressions than elevations. Those in Baldwinsville have no particular arrangement, except the usual feature of drawing up the knees and crossing the arms. This is an economic practice, in order to make the body compact, thus requiring less digging. The faces turn in every direction, and the skeletons lie upon the side. In those dug up on the line of the Syracuse and Baldwinsville railroad, the only thing found with them in the pure sand loam, was a small pebble under the head.

Beyond the visits of hunters and fishermen there has been no Indian occupation of the town since A. D. 1600. There is some reason to suppose that the village on Mrs. Crego's farm was occupied not long before that time. It seems to have been removed from

another site on the opposite side of the river. All other sites, excepting the camps yielding beads, are of an earlier date. But three shell beads have been found here, as the interior inhabitants knew little of these until the Dutch trade began. One of these was of a Unio shell, another of a marine univalve, and another of a bivalve shell. The former two came from the Crego site, where was also found a curious shell pendant. The other bead is of uncertain age. Probably less than half a dozen shell beads have been found in the whole county as old as the year 1600.

Without going into detail, a brief summary of other articles may be given. Stone gouges were earlier than the Iroquois occupation, and may be broad, or long and tapering. Arrows and spears are of every age and form. The Iroquois arrows were mostly triangular. Scrapers are flat on one side, but extremely variable. One of the most remarkable known was found just east of Dead creek. Drills or perforators are slender, and the Iroquois made neither of these in stone. Hammer stones and mullers were used in every period. Soapstone vessels and earthenware do not occur on the same sites, and the former are much like those used by the Eskimo. They are the only people who now use the semi-circular stone woman's knife, which is occasional here, or the pointed slate knife, here called slate arrows. Pestles are usually early, as the Iroquois preferred the wooden pestle and mortar. Pottery is ornamented, and sometimes with much taste. Pipes are of clay or stone, usually the former, which was the customary material of the early Iroquois. Stone pipes both preceded and followed these. Deer skimmers, otherwise celts or stone axes, are of every period and finish. For a few exceptional relics of minor importance we have no time now, but it may be remarked that the Iroquois articles of bone and horn are quite rare along the

Seneca river. Perhaps a word may be said on the Indian name of Baldwinsville, which is *Ste-ha-hah*, Stones in the water. McHarie's Rifts were not free from stones, and at Bishop's Rifts they are yet conspicuous, but two immense boulders in the river, one at the western edge of the corporation and one a mile beyond, may have given its Indian name to the place.

The earliest mention we have of the river which forms the northern boundary of Van Buren is in Simon le Moyne's journal, of Aug. 17th, 1654, as he passed northward through the outlet of Onondaga lake: "We enter into their river, and at a quarter of a league we met on the left, that of the Sonnotouan (Seneca), which increases this; it leads, they say, to Onioen (Cayuga) and Sonnotouan in two nights' lodgings." The missionaries, however, most commonly took the land route. In the Relation of 1669, Seneca river is again mentioned. "The quantity of rushes which is upon this river, has given the name of *Tiohero* to the town nearest to *Oioguen*, (Cayuga.)" The river is on the map of 1665, with Cayuga lake under this name, but it is usually given as *Thiohero*, otherwise the place of rushes.

A missionary, writing from Cayuga in 1672, mentioned another name which is better known. "The river of *Ochoueguen* (Oswego), which issues from this lake, is divided in its commencement into different channels surrounded by prairies, and from place to place are deep and agreeable bays, which maintain hunting." This is the earliest appearance of the name of Oswego, formerly only applied to the

river in its downward course, as it means flowing out. In ascending it took the name of the nation to which it led.

In 1723 the English observed that Seneca river would be useful in the western fur trade, for canoes would be safer there than on Lake Ontario. Previous to this, in 1700, Col. Romer had examined part of the river with a view to building a fort at Three River Point. His map is a curious study. Although he passed down from Onondaga lake, he made the Cayuga or Seneca river a small stream, a few miles long, while the true Seneca he made tributary to the Oswego near Lake Ontario. On this map, however, Cross lake conspicuously appears, as it does on the French map of Raffeix, in 1688. Its Indian name is *Teunento*, "At the cedars," in allusion to the cedar swamps south of it. On Guy Johnson's map, 1771, it appears as Glass L., probably an error, while the river is called the Great Seneca. The earliest accessible mention of the lake was by Rev. Samuel Kirkland, Sept. 29, 1788. He was going westward by canoe, and overtook a party of Senecas on the Oneida river. They had been detained by sickness, and were short of provisions. He gave them what he could, and said he "encouraged them to come on the next day with their light canoes, and overtake me at the Cross lake, and I would see them safe to Kanadasegea, (Geneva.)" The lake, however, lies entirely west of the limits of Van Buren, but is a great expansion of the river which partially bounds it. The river itself was an early highway for the Indian and his white successors.

CHENODE CENTRAL LIBRARY

ADDENDA.

PAGE 15.—William Lakin is said to have settled in Washington county by reason of being given a grant there located on account of his military services.

PAGE 16.—The Molby family came into the town soon after the coming of John Tappen, which fact substantiates the date of 1797 given them in Mason's History.

PAGE 18.—Alexander Crum, Sr., came to the town from Rockland county about 1815. The Weaver family was also early in the region.

PAGE 23.—Mortimer Brown was the full name of the inn-keeper at Van Buren Corners. The inn was abandoned about 1840. Harris settled in eastern (not western) Van Buren, and died about 1858. The store at the Corners was started about 1830 by one Scoville, and was later kept by John D. Norton and H. R. Dow, being given up about 1840. Russell Ladd, "botanic," and Oliver Magoon, "allopath," were early physicians near the Corners.

PAGE 39.—Although there is no evidence of slavery in Van Buren, there were, in early years, a few colored men, who may have at some time been slaves. Such were "Yat," who worked for James Williams, and "Hector," who worked in the Ladd pottery at Memphis.

PAGE 41.—Two saw mills formerly stood on Lot 23. One was built by Josiah Hodges early in the twenties, and the other probably by Oliver Goff about the same time. They were abandoned about 1830.

PAGE 42.—The Goodrich distillery near Bangall was located east of Dead Creek on a small brook close by the road running south. Before he took the Bangall property, C. H. Toll had managed a small "still" at Ionia near his tavern from about 1818 to 1825.

PAGE 43.—Small industries unmentioned are the pottery conducted at Memphis by Cyrus Ladd, the ashery at the same place owned by D. C. Lytle, and the shop near the Bostwick place on Sorrel Hill where Abel Weaver made grain-cradles, all in early years.

PAGE 44.—Records of the Cayuga Baptist Association show that the Second Baptist Society of Camillus was organized some time within the twelve months ending Sept. 20, 1815, thus corroborating the date claimed for the Memphis church and making it the first church in the town. The society changed from the Cayuga to the Oswego Association in 1825 and later joined the Onondaga Association.

SYRACUSE CENTRAL LIBRARY



(64)
Eber Hart pr p 50, 17
Gordon " p. 19
Eber Hart p. 18
Aunt wife Stephen. p. 16
~~Ben + Daniel Hart 17~~

Eber Hart came from Providence in 1800 & settled in
Van Buren. He d 1842 at 89, Alice his wife d 1841 at 87"
buried at Sorell Hill
His son Eber jr. b in Prov. Oct 7, 1787, d Aug 1, 1873 in Phoenix

Bishop, Calvin 23

Gilbert Luffen, J.O.B. (65)
mar

Gedneys. See Newburgh hds.
Oct 12; 125

mead 43

Cornell 17. 4134, 50

Sherman p. 17, 18

Tappan Phil. 56

Ulaworth, 41

Zaker 16, 19, 18
Tappan 13;

Warner 12

66

71

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Relating to early settlers
Taken from a list by
Dr. W. M. Beauchamp, Syracuse, N. Y.

Adams, Dr. Charlora,	d. Mar. 4, 1829, ae. 56-0-15
Armstrong, John G.	d. Nov. 22, 1825, ae. 46
Barns, Phineas,	d. Apr. 6, 1825, ae. 44-0-26
" Ira,	d. Oct. 8, 1864, ae. 82
" Hiram,	d. July 23, 1858, ae. 56-6-13
Baldwin, Dr. Jonas C.	d. Mar. 3, 1827, ae. 58
Betts, Josiah,	d. Feb. 17, 1847, ae. 80
Bigelow, Otis, Feb. 1, 1785-----	June 26, 1864
Bostwick, Alvin,	d. May 22, 1855, ae. 84-3-10
Bowman, Peter,	d. May 29, 1835, in 74" yr.
Brittin, John C.	d. July 21, 1842, ae. 85
"Mrs. Mary, wife	d. May 12, 1846, ae. 59-9
Buel, Dr. Jonathan Shepherd	d. 1817, ae. 26
Cook, Henry,	d. Aug. 12, 1862, ae. 88-3
Crum, Alexander,	d. Aug. 27, 1824, ae. 60-0-16
Cunningham, John,	d. 1820, ae. 76
Davenport, Rev. John,	d. July 13, 1821, ae. 69
Dolph, David,	d. Feb. 19, 1840, ae. 58-11-10
Dunham, Anson,	d. June 17, 1866, ae. 58

Earll, Alpheus, d. Nov. 5, 1851, b. Sept. 9, '69
 Earll, John, d. May 12, 1863, ae. 66-8-3
 " , Calista, wife Marcus, d. Dec. 23, 1839, ae. 36
 " , Lucinda, " " d. Jan. 13, 1877, ae. 75

Foster, Joel, d. Jan. 17, 1834, ae. 51-2-2

Frazee, Jacob, d. Feb. 22, 1888, b. June 9, '98

Gayetty, John A. d. Dec. 21, 1870, b. Mar. 6, '01

Goff, Betsy E. d. July 9, 1866, ae. 81-10-9

Griswold, Horatio, d. Mar. 17, 1884?, ae. 72

Hart, Eber, d. July 21, 1842, in 89" yr.

" Eber, Jr. d. Oct. 1, 1873, b. Oct. 7, '87

" , Electa, wife Stephen, d. Dec. 19, 1833,

Haynes, David d. May 26, 1844, ae. 69-11-16
See Gen. Central NY 3 1285

Hall, Amos, Nov. 19, 1792—July 19, 1872

Ham, John, d. Apr. 13, 1846, ae. 63-1

Hamill, John, d. July 21, 1827, ae. 52

Herrick, Capt. John, 1780-1826

How, Moses, d. Mar. 25, 1849, ae. 85-4-23

Howe, Mrs. Catherine, d. Jan. 17, 1846, ae. 69-6

Ingoldsbe, John, d. Aug. 17, 1836, ae. 83-3-2

Ingoldsby, J. Warren, d. 1872, ae. 38

Jones, Mrs. Lydia, d. Feb. 18, 1859, ae. 81

Kill, George,	d. Sept. 9, 1863, ae. 77
Ladd, Russel,	d. Feb. 2, 1859, ae. 71-8
Lakin, William,	d. Feb. 23, 1835, in 78"yr.
Lamerson, Jacob,	d. Feb. 15, 1811, ae. 64
Loveless, Daniel,	d. June 13, 1871, ae. 68-5-2
Lusk, Richard,	d. Apr. 15, 1862, ae. 69
McHarie, John,	d. Nov. 26, 1805, ae. 55
Marvin, Thomas,	d. May 11, 1835, ae. 72
Meade, Stephen,	d. Apr. 1, 1841, ae. 63
Meigs, Phineas,	d. May 1, 1835, ae. 77
" , Phineas, Jr.	d. Nov. 18, 1868, ae. 77-7-16
" , Waitstill, wife,	d. May 14, 1819, in 26"yr.
Mellin, Atchinson,	d. June 8, 1825, ae. 73
Miner, Lucy (Stedman)	d. Apr. 22, 1840, ae. 77-5 <i>Joshua</i>
Morley, Ebenezer,	d. Oct. 19, 1832, in 77"yr.
Morrill, Rev. Obadiah E.	d. Feb. 22, 1863, b. Mar. 24, '98
Ostrander, Stephen,	d. Nov. 19, 1849, ae. 47-11-17
Ouderkirk, Nicholas,	d. Feb. 26, 1856, ae. 70-7-22
Parish, Isaac,	d. Oct. 8, 1866, b. June 8, '83
Parker, Sandford C.	d. Apr. 26, 1861, b. Feb. 4, 1800
Peck, Elihu,	d. 1841, ae. 64

Pelton, Philip, d. May 13, 1822, ae. 26
", Isabel, wife John, d. Feb. 26, 1840, ae. 60

Feb. 17
Rev. Seth. Rewey, Thomas, d. 1836, ae. 84 WARNERS

Rice, Elijah, d. Sept. 28, 1813, in 34" yr.

Robinson, Mrs. Mary, d. June 28, 1850, in 70" yr.
Robinson, Geo. W. d. Oct. 25, 1867, b. Aug. 21, '92

Rogers, Alexander, d. Dec. 15, 1854, b. July 21, '01

Rouse, Simon, d. Oct. 16, 1865, ae. 72
Rouse, Wm. Feb. 25, 1796----Feb. 21, 1874

Schuyler, William, d. Mar. 2, 1860, ae. 75
", Philip Jay, d. June 18, 1869, ae. 72-3

Scoville, David, d. Mar. 18, 1845, ae. 55-11

Sears, Abijah, Nov. 25, 1796----June 26, 1857

Shead, Samuel, d. Jan. 5, 1830, ae. 81
", Loring, d. July 7, 1868, ae. 74-6

Smith, Dow Peckham, d. May 10, 1737---Feb. 26, 1841
Smith, Augustus Howe, Oct. 10, 1801---July 23, 1880

Snow, Elijah, d. Nov. 18, 1841, ae. 81

Somes, Samuel, d. Apr. 10, 1863, ae. 73-6-18

Spore, Cornelia C, wife Henry, d. Apr. 6, 1814, ae. 42
Squire, Linus, d. Jan. 18, 1830, ae. 47

Steves, John, d. June 16, 1854, ae. 84-2-27
", Jacob R. d. Dec. 14, 1874, ae. 95-4-24

- Talmage, Enos, d. Dec. 17, 1863, ae. 84-10-7
- Tappan, John, d. Nov. 29, 1818, ae. 62
- " Stephen, d. Apr. 3, 1831, ae. 50-6
- " Col. Gabriel, d. Aug. 4, 1865, ae. 82-1-25
- Toll, Charles, H. d. May 13, 1869, ae. 84-7-10
- Veeder, Nicholas, d. May 15, 1858, ae. 73
- Warner, Henry, d. Aug. 16, 1818, ae. 36
- Warner, Col. Seth, d. Sept. 10, 1858, ae. 83-1-1
- Warner, Amos, d. Jan. 20, 1868, ae. 87-6-25
- Waterman, Calvin, d. 1838, ae. 86
- Weaver, John, d. June 17, 1886, ae. 92
- Welch, William, d. May 11, 1864, ae. 71-9-19
- Wells, Margary, wife Ebenezer, d. Jan. 3, 1833, ae. 75
- Wells, James, b. Westfield, d. May 8, 1873, ae. 90
- White, Dr. Adonijah, d. Oct. 29, 1827, ae. 75
- White, Joseph, d. Dec. 24, 1830, b. Dec. 24, '49
- Williams, John, Apr. 9, 1782—Oct. 21, 1860
- Williams, Nathan, d. Mar. 15, 1873, ae. 76-2-20
- Young, Rachel Hodges, wife James, d. Feb. 26, 1817, ae.

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